

ISTANBUL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY ★ GRADUATE SCHOOL OF
SCIENCE ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY

**PRODUCTION AND OPTIMIZATION OF CAROTENOIDS AND LIPIDS
FROM OLEAGINOUS RED YEAST *RHODOSPORIDIUM TORULOIDES*
Y27012**

M.Sc. THESIS

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Department of Food Engineering

Food engineering programme

JUNE 2014

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İSTANBUL TEKNİK ÜNİVERSİTESİ ★ FEN BİLİMLERİ ENSTİTÜSÜ

***RHODOSPORIDIUM TORULOIDES* 27012 MAYASINDAN KAROTENOİD
VE TEK HÜCRE YAĞI ÜRETİMİ VE OPTİMİZASYONU**

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ABBREVIATIONS

ANOVA	: Analysis of variance
C/N	: Carbon to nitrogen ratio
CCD	: Central composite design
DMSO	: Dimethyl sulfoxide
FAME	: Fatty acid methyl ester
GC	: Gas chromatography
HPLC	: High performance liquid chromatography
P_m	: Carotenoids concentration
RSM	: Response surface methodology
SCO	: Single cell oil
SD	: Standard deviation
TLC	: Thin-Layer Chromatography
US	: Ultrasonic method
X_m	: Dried cell biomass
$Y_{p/x}$: Product yield

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**PRODUCTION AND OPTIMIZATION OF CAROTENOIDS AND LIPIDS
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Y27012**

SUMMARY

The ability of certain microorganisms to accumulate high amount of lipid and carotenoids has been known for years. In the last years, real efforts have been made to study their pathways, and optimization of production conditions and culture medium. Microbial lipid compounds, known as single cell oils (SCO) have industrial interest due to their particular and precise properties.

Oily yeasts (OY) have been described to be able to accumulate lipid up to 20% of their cellular dry weight. These yeasts represent minor proportion of the total yeasts, but about 25% of them are able to produce 25% of lipid.

In recent years, increasing evidences for toxicological effects of synthetic colors have prompted regulatory agencies worldwide to drastically prune the list of permitted synthetic food colors. As a result of stringent rules and regulations applied to chemically synthesize purified pigments, and consumer preferences and growth of food industry, demand of carotenoids as safe and suitable coloring agents is on rise. Microorganisms offer economical production of carotenoids through biotechnological methods and provide an alternative to chemical synthesis. More than 600 different carotenoids are produced by plants, algae, bacteria, and fungi. However, only a few can be obtained in useful quantities by chemical synthesis, and extracted from their natural sources or obtained by microbial fermentation.

In this work, effect of medium additives on the production of carotenoids and lipids from *Rhodosporidium toruloides* Y27012 were investigated and furthermore medium components were optimized by response surface methodology (RSM). In the first part of the study, two methods such as ultrasonic (US) assisted and HCl assisted extraction techniques were compared with control technique (grinding) on carotenoids extraction yield from *Rhodosporidium toruloides* Y27012. HCl-assisted extraction of carotenoids was found to be the most effective method with a carotenoid yield of $977 \pm 43.25 \mu\text{g/g}$ and concentration of $31.24 \pm 0.78 \text{ mg/L}$, compared with US method and grinding (control).

In the second part of the study, various carbon sources, nitrogen sources and different carbon to nitrogen ratios (C/N) and additives were investigated in order to obtain the highest carotenoids production from *Rhodosporidium toruloides* Y27012. Lipid contents were also determined during the study.

Among the nitrogen sources that were examined, yeast extract was found to be the best nitrogen source for carotenoids yield and concentration ($977.12 \pm 43.25 \mu\text{g/g}$ and $31.24 \pm 0.78 \text{ mg/L}$) followed by peptone and ammonium sulfate.

Also yeast extract gave the highest lipid content and lipid yield (41.71 ± 1.02 %, 15.23 ± 2.06 g/L).

Assimilation of different sugars as carbon source by the red yeast *Rhodospiridium toruloides* Y27012 for its growth and pigmentation showed that highest carotenoids yield was 977.12 ± 43.28 μ g/g when glucose was used as carbon source at C/N ratio of 40, whereas It was noticed from this research that no clear difference between lipid content was found when glucose and glycerol sources were used. Glucose gave the highest lipid concentration 15.23 ± 2.06 g/L compared with glycerol (6.16 ± 0.40 g/L) which gave the lowest one compared with glucose and xylose.

The effect of C/N ratio was examined to study its effect on lipid and carotenoids production. The maximum carotenoids production was obtained at C/N ratio of 20 (24.76 ± 1.78 g/L, 1001 ± 17.87 μ g/g) compared with low medium nitrogen contents at C/N ratio of 40 and 60. But at this ratio lipid contents and lipid yields were found to be low. It was noticed that lipid content increased with the increase in C/N (low nitrogen), and the highest lipid content was noticed at high C/N ratio 60 (49.83 ± 2.53 %, 16.98 ± 0.79 g/L).

Effect of additives on carotenoids and lipid production at C/N ratio of 20 and ethanol addition (10 g/L) increased the carotenoid yield with no change in carotenoid concentration compared with control sample (1732.17 ± 39.45 μ g/g, 22.92 ± 0.95 mg/L), lipid content increased until 44.92 ± 5.43 % from 40.28 ± 2.44 % in control sample. But the lipid concentration was lower (8.59 ± 1.05 g/L) compared with the control one.

It was noticed that addition of acetic acid (5 g/L) made a huge increase in lipid content but the carotenoids were not detected when acetic acid was added.

When some additives were added at low concentration such as 0.1% (v/v), they did not have any effect on carotenoid yield, but carotenoid concentration was still almost the same around 20 mg/L. When Tween 80 and Tween 20 were added at high concentration such as 1% (v/v) and glucose was adjusted to have C/N ratio of 20, an increase in carotenoid yield and carotenoid concentration were observed. Tween 80 gave 25 ± 2.07 mg/L, 1014.46 ± 68.44 μ g/g carotenoids yield and concentration, respectively. Although Tween 20 gave 25.26 ± 1.19 mg/L which was higher than control sample without any activators, but the carotenoid yields was almost the same with little difference (1002.79 ± 46.87 μ g/g) compared with the control sample (1001.51 ± 17.87 μ g/g) with decrease in cell biomass. So at low glucose concentrations to have C/N ratio of 20, Tween20, Tween 80 at 1% (v/v) increased the carotenoid concentration with little increase in carotenoid yield compared with control sample.

Adding Tween 80 and Tween 20 at 0.1% and 1% (v/v) caused increase in lipid content, and the highest lipid content reached to 66.33 ± 1.38 % when Tween 80 was added at 1% (v/v). Whereas when cotton seed oil and linseed oil were used at 0.1% and 1% (v/v), *Rhodospiridium toruloides* Y27012 didn't produce any carotenoids and the medium was still without any color even after 5 days of fermentatio

In the third part of the study, response surface methodology (RSM) was applied for optimizing the medium additives for the production of biomass, carotenoids and lipids. RSM can not only improve growth and production, but also reduce process variability, development time, and overall costs.

The graphic plot of predicted values by the model vs. observed experimental values showed a linear distribution for biomass, lipid content, and carotenoid yield ($R^2=0.947, 0.959, \text{ and } 0.921$, respectively) for the response. This indicated that up to 92 ~ 96 % of the variations in biomass, lipids, and carotenoids can be explained by these equations.

The model of biomass was highly appropriate for the prediction since the Fmodel values was high compared to the F table.

It is observed that the most important effects on biomass incorporation was found as ethanol. "Glucose", "ethanol*ethanol", and "glucose* ethanol" do not have any effect on biomass as ($p>0.05$).

Whereas "glucose*glucose", "yeast extract*yeast extract", "ethanol* ethanol", and "yeast extract*ethanol" have an effect on lipid content as ($p<0.05$).

While "yeast extract*yeast extract", "ethanol* ethanol", and "glucose*yeast extract" have effects on carotenoid yield.

It was noticed after optimization by RSM that the maximum biomass (18.78 g/L) was obtained at glucose of 9.2819 g/L and decreased yeast extract at 1.78 g/L, also maximum lipid content (75.1405%) at decreased yeast extract ratio (1.77g/L). The maximum carotenoids yield (1680.25 $\mu\text{g/g}$) was obtained at glucose concentration of 6.43 g/L and relatively high yeast extract concentration of (3.77 g/L)

After optimization by RSM, individual carotenoids and fatty acid compositions were determined by high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) and gas chromatography (GC).

The fatty acid composition showed that four major constituent fatty acids were noticed oleic acid (18:1), palmitic acid (16:0), stearic acid (18:1) and linoleic acid (18:2). Oleic acid was noticed at 38.54% followed by palmitic acid (20.82%) then palmitoleic acid (12.71%), linoleic acid (12.01%), stearic acid (4.4%) palmitoleic acid. The rest fatty acid were at low ratios.

***RHODOSPORIDIUM TORULOIDES* Y27012 MAYASINDAN KAROTENOİD VE TEK HÜCRE YAĞI ÜRETİMİ VE OPTİMİZASYONU**

ÖZET

Bazı mikroorganizmaların yüksek miktarda lipit ve karotenoidleri depolama kabiliyeti yıllardır bilinmektedir. Son yıllarda yollarının incelenmesi ve üretim koşulları ve kültür ortamlarının optimizasyonu için gerçek çabalar gösterildi. Tek hücreli yağlar (SCO) olarak bilinen mikrobiyal lipit bileşikler özel ve hassas nitelikleri nedeniyle endüstriyel ilgiye sahiptirler.

Yağlı mayalar (OY) hücresel kuru ağırlıklarının %20'sine kadar lipit depolama kabiliyetine sahip olarak tanımlanmıştır. Bu mayalar toplam mayaların küçük bir bölümünü teşkil eder fakat yaklaşık %25'leri lipidin %25'ini üretebilirler.

Son yıllarda, sentetik renklerin toksikolojik etkileri hakkında artan kanıtlar dünya çapında düzenleyici kuruluşların izin verilen gıda renkleri listesini radikal bir şekilde budamasına yol açmıştır. Kimyasal olarak sentezlenen saflaştırılmış pigmentlere uygulanan katı kurallara sonucunda ve tüketici tercihleri ile gıda endüstrisinin büyümesinin bir sonucu, güvenli ve uygun renklendiriciler olarak karotenoidlere olan talep artmaktadır. Mikroorganizmalar karotenoidlerin biyoteknolojik yöntemlerle ucuz üretimini sağlar ve kimyasal senteze bir alternatif oluşturur. 600'den fazla farklı karotenoid bitkiler, bakteri ve mantarlar tarafından üretilir. Ancak, sadece birkaçı kimyasal sentezle faydalı miktarlarda elde edilebilir ve doğal kaynaklarından çıkartılır veya mikrobiyal fermantasyonla elde edilebilir.

Bu çalışmada, karotenoidlerin ve *Rhodospiridium toruloides* Y27012'den lipitlerin üretimi üzerinde besiyeri katkılarının etkisi araştırılmış ve ayrıca besiyeri bileşenleri, yanıt yüzeyi metodolojisi (RSM) ile optimize edilmiştir.

Çalışmanın birinci bölümünde, ultrasonik (US) destekli ve HCl destekli ekstrasyon teknikleri olmak üzere karotenoidlerin *Rhodospiridium toruloides* Y27012. HCl'den çıkarım verimi üzerinde 2 yöntem, kontrol tekniği (öğütme) ile mukayese edildi. Karotenoidlerin HCl destekli ekstrasyonu, 977 ± 43.25 µg/g karotenoid verimi ve 31.24 ± 0.78 mg/L konsantrasyonu ile US yöntemi ve öğütme (kontrol) ile mukayese edildiğinde en etkin yöntem olarak bulundu.

Çalışmanın ikinci bölümünde, muhtelif karbon kaynakları, azot kaynakları ve farklı karbon azot oranları (C/N) ve katkı maddeleri *Rhodospiridium toruloides* Y27012'den en yüksek karotenoid üretimini elde etmek için araştırıldı. Çalışma süresince lipit içerikleri de belirlendi.

İncelenen azot kaynakları arasında maya özütü karotenoid verimi ve konsantrasyonu (977.12 ± 43.25 µg/g ve 31.24 ± 0.78 mg/L) için en iyi azot kaynağı olarak tespit edildi, bunu pepton ve amonyum sülfat izledi. Maya özütü aynı zamanda en yüksek lipit içeriğini ve lipit verimini de verdi (41.71 ± 1.02 , 15.23 ± 2.06 g/L).

Pigmentasyonu ve lipit üretimi için, farklı şekerlerin karbon kaynağı olarak kırmızı maya *Rhodospiridium toruloides* Y27012 tarafından asimilasyonunda en yüksek karotenoid veriminin, karbon kaynağı olarak glikozun C/N = 40 oranında kullanıldığı zaman, 977.12 ± 43.28 µg/g olduğunu gösterdi; ancak bu araştırmadan glikoz ve gliserol kaynakları kullanıldığında lipit içerikte belirgin bir fark bulunmadığının farkına varıldı. Glikozun, gliserol ve ksiloz ile karşılaştırıldığında en düşük konsantrasyonu veren gliserol (6.16 ± 0.40 g/L) ile mukayese edildiğinde en yüksek lipit konsantrasyonunu 15.23 ± 2.06 g/L verdi

C/N oranının lipit ve karotenoidlerin üretimine etkisi üzerinde çalışılmak üzere incelendi. Maksimum karotenoid üretimi, C/N= 40 ve 60 oranındaki düşük ortam azot içeriğine kıyasla, C/N 20 oranında elde edildi (24.76 ± 1.78 g/L, 1001 ± 17.87 µg/g). Fakat bu oranda lipit içerikler ve lipit verimleri düşük bulundu. Lipit içeriğinin, C/N'deki artışla (düşük azot) arttığı fark edildi ve en yüksek lipit içerik C/N=60 yüksek oranında gözlemlendi (49.83 ± 2.53 , 16.98 ± 0.79 g/L).

Katkı maddelerinin C/N= 20 oranında ve etanol ilavesi (10 g/L) ile karotenoidler ve lipit üretimi üzerinde etkisi, kontrol numunesi ile karşılaştırıldığında (1732.17 ± 39.45 µg/g, 22.92 ± 0.95 mg/L), karotenoid konsantrasyonunda değişiklik olmaksızın karotenoid verimini artırdı, kontrol numunesinde lipit içerik 40.28 ± 2.44 'den 44.92 ± 5.43 'e kadar arttı. Ancak lipit konsantrasyonu kontrol numunesininkine oranla daha düşüktü (8.59 ± 1.05 g/L).

Asetik asit ilavesinin (5 g/L) lipit içerikte muazzam bir artış yarattığı fakat asetik asit ilave edildiğinde karotenoidlerin saptanmadığı not edildi.

Bazı katkı maddeleri %0.1 (v/v) gibi düşük konsantrasyonlarda ilave edildiğinde, karotenoid verimi üzerinde herhangi bir etkileri olmadı ve karotenoid konsantrasyonu hala hemen hemen yaklaşık 20 mg/L civarındaydı. % 1 (v/v) gibi yüksek konsantrasyonda Tween 80 ve Tween 20 ilave edildiğinde ve C/N=20 oranında olacak şekilde ayarlandığında, karotenoid veriminde ve karotenoid konsantrasyonunda bir artış gözlemlendi. Tween 80 sırasıyla 25 ± 2.07 mg/L, 1014.46 ± 68.44 µg/g karotenoid verimi ve konsantrasyonu verdi. Her ne kadar Tween 20, herhangi bir aktifleştiricisiz kontrol numunesinden daha yüksek olan 25.26 ± 1.19 mg/L vermiş olsa da, karotenoid verimleri (1002.79 ± 46.87 µg/g), kontrol numunesi ile mukayese edildiğinde küçük fark ve hücre biokütlesinde azalma ile hemen hemen aynı idi (1001.51 ± 17.87 µg/g). Yani C/N=20 oranına sahip düşük glukoz konsantrasyonlarında, %1'lik (v/v) Tween20, Tween 80 kontrol numunesine kıyasla karotenoid veriminde az bir artışla beraber karotenoid konsantrasyonunu arttırdı.

%0.1 ve %1 (v/v)'de Tween 80 ve Tween 20 ilave edilmesi lipit içerikte artışa neden oldu ve %1 (v/v)'de Tween 80 ilave edildiğinde en yüksek lipit içeriği 66.33 ± 1.38 'e ulaştı. Ancak, Pamuk tohumu yağı ve keten yağı %0.1 ve %1 (v/v)'de kullanıldıklarında, *Rhodospiridium toruloides* Y27012 herhangi bir karotenoid üretmedi ve ortamın fermentasyondan 5 gün sonra bile hala herhangi bir rengi yoktu.

Çalışmanın üçüncü bölümünde yanıt yüzeyi metodolojisi (RSM) biokütle, karotenoidler ve lipitlerin üretimi için ortam katkı maddelerini optimize etmek üzere uygulandı. RSM sadece büyüme ve üretimi geliştirmekle kalmaz aynı zamanda süreç değişkenliğini, gelişim süresini ve genel maliyetleri de düşürür.

Gözlemlenen deneysel değerlere karşın model tarafından öngörülen değerlerin grafik çizimi yanıt için biokütle, lipit içerik ve karotenoid verimi için tepki olarak lineer bir dağılım gösterdi (sırasıyla $R^2=0.947$, 0.959 ve 0.921). Bu, biokütle, lipitler ve karotenoidlerdeki %92 ~ 96'ya kadar olan değişimlerin bu denklemlerle açıklanabileceğini gösterdi.

F model deęerleri F tablosuna kıyasla yüksek olduęundan, biokütlenin modeli öngörü için fazlasıyla uygundu.

Biokütle kaynaşması üzerinde en önemli etkilerin etanol olarak bulunduęu gözlemlendi. "Glikoz", "etanol*ethanol" ve "glikoz* etanol" ($p > 0.05$) olarak biyokütle üzerinde herhangi bir etkisi yoktur.

Oysaki "glikoz*glikoz", "maya özütü*maya özütü", "etanol* etanol", ve "maya özütü*etanol"ün, ($p > 0.05$) olarak lipit içerik üzerinde bir etkisi vardır.

Dięer yandan "maya özütü*maya özütü", "etanol* etanol", ne "glikoz*maya özütü"nın karotenoid verimi üzerinde etkileri vardır.

RSM ile optimizasyondan sonra azami biokütlenin (18.78 g/L), 9.2819 g/L'lik glikozda ve 1.78 g/L'e azaltılmış maya özütünde, aynı zamanda, azami lipit içerięin (%75.1405) azaltılmış maya özütü oranında (1.77g/L) elde edildięi ortaya koyuldu. Azami karotenoid verimi (1680.25 µg/g) 6,43 g/L'lik glikoz konsantrasyonunda ve göreceli olarak yüksek maya özütü konsantrasyonunda elde edildi.

RSM ile optimizasyondan sonra münferit karotenoidler ve yağ asidi bileşimleri yüksek performanslı sıvı kromatografisi (HPLC) ve gaz kromatografisi (GC) ile saptandı.

Yağ asidi bileşimi dört ana yağ asidi bileşeni ortaya koyulduęunu gösterdi; oleik asit (18:1), palmitik asit (16:0), stearik asit (18:1) ve linoleik asit (18:2). Oleik asit %38.54, takiben palmitik asit (%20.82), sonra palmitoleik asit (%12.71), linoleik asit (%12.01), stearik asit (%4.4%), palmitoleik asit olarak gözlemlendi. Dięer yağ asitleri düşük oranlarda idiler.

1.INTRODUCTION

Carotenoids are among the most widespread and important pigments of the various classes of pigments in nature. Carotenoids are important natural pigments, displaying yellow, orange, and red color, found widely in microorganisms and plants. Industrially carotenoid pigments such as β -carotene and astaxanthin are used as natural food colorants or feed additives in aquaculture. Several studies have shown that carotenoids combat various types of cancer and other diseases because of their antioxidant and/or provitamin A potential. Carotenoids are found in the chloroplasts and chromoplasts of plants and some other photosynthetic organisms, including some bacteria and some fungi.

Among microorganisms, some bacteria, yeasts, fungi, and algae are well known to accumulate carotenoids as intracellular pigments (Goodwin, 1980; Johnson and Schroeder, 1995). Among yeasts, the species such as *Phaffia rhodozyma*, *Genera Rhodotorula* and *Sporobolomyces*, as well as their teleomorphs *Rhodospiridium* and *Sporidiobolus*, have been known for a long time to be able to produce carotenoids (Johnson and Schroeder, 1995). Also many strategies were employed to increase product yields from microorganisms, which include the use of overproducing strains, addition of bacterial and, fungal enzymes that disrupt the yeast cell wall and the development of low cost culture media that diminishes production cost (Haard, 1988; Fang, 2002). The increasing interest in microbial sources of carotenoids is related to consumer preferences for natural additives and the potential cost effectiveness of producing carotenoids via microbial biotechnology.

Rhodospiridium yeasts produce, additionally, carotenoid pigments like β -carotene, torulene and torularhodin, the precursor of which is considered to be acetyl-CoA (via the mevalonate pathway). Oleaginous yeast *Rhodospiridium toruloides* can accumulate triacylglycerols as cellular storage lipid up to 70% of the cell mass by assimilating carbohydrates from lignocellulosic biomass or other cheap materials as

the feedstock (Li, 2007; Zhao, 2010), Besides, *R. toruloides* has already been proved to be capable to grow on a broad range of substrates including but not limited to: sugars like glucose and xylose, lignocellulosic hydrolysate, and excesssludge hydrolysate (Zhao, 2007; Buzzini, 2007; Xu, 2011, Wang, 2012; Marilyn,2012). Furthermore, it can simultaneously produce carotenoids as by-products, which may have some potential values (Buzzini, 2007; Xu, 2012). The total carotenoids was reported, when glucose was used as carbon source, at 122 $\mu\text{g/g}$ dry mass while the main carotenoids produced were identified as torulene, torularhodin, γ carotene, and β carotene (Buzzini, 2007). In order to improve the yield of carotenoid pigments and subsequently decrease the cost of this biotechnological process, diverse processes have been performed by optimizing the culture conditions including nutritional factors especially by response surface methodology (RSM) which is a very useful tool for optimizing process parameters. They can provide statistical models that help to elucidate the interactions among parameters at varying levels and calculate the optimal level of each parameter for a given response (Heo, 2009).

In this work, Two methods of carotenoid extraction, ultrasonic assisting and HCL assisting were carried out in carotenoids extraction from *Rhodospiridium toruloides* Y27012 compared with the control one.

Production of lipid and carotenoids by cultivating *Rhodospiridium toruloides* Y27012 was attempted. Firstly, a suitable nitrogen source, carbon source, the effect of C/N ratios, and some additives. Then The effects of the carbon source, nitrogen source, and additive concentrations on the production of lipids and carotenoids were simultaneously investigated using RSM. After RSM optimization fatty acids composition in the FAME was analysed by GC.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Carotenoids

Carotenoids are naturally occurring lipid-soluble pigments, the majority being C40 terpenoids. They act as membrane-protective antioxidants that efficiently scavenge $^1\text{O}_2$ and peroxy radicals; and besides their antioxidative efficiency is apparently related to their structure (Goodwin, 1988). The most significant part in the molecule is the conjugated double bond system that determines their colour and biological action (Sandmann, 2001). Carotenoids are important natural pigments, displaying yellow, orange, and red color, found widely in microorganisms and plants and these pigments also occur universally in photosynthetic systems of higher plants, algae and phototrophic bacteria. In non-photosynthetic organisms, carotenoids are important in protecting against photooxidative damage. In plants or microorganisms, carotenoids can be found as hydrocarbons (carotene; e.g., lycopene, α -carotene, and β -carotene) or their oxygenated derivatives (xanthophylls; e.g., lutein, α -cryptoxanthin and β -cryptoxanthin, zeaxanthin, canthaxanthin and astaxanthin). The difference between produced amount of some carotenoids from plant and microbial ones are given in Table 2.1 (Armstrong, 1994).

Table 2.1 : comparison between carotenoids yields of natural and microbial sources

Carotenoids	Natural Sources	content	Microbial Sources	Yield
Astaxanthin	Krill	120 mg/kg	<i>Xanthophyllomyces dendrorhous</i>	1,080 $\mu\text{g/g}$
	Arctic Shrimp	1.2 mg/kg	<i>Haematococcus pluvialis</i>	350 mg/L
β-Carotene	Carrots	183 $\mu\text{g/kg}$	<i>Blakeslea trispora</i>	420 $\mu\text{g/g}$
	Mango	131 $\mu\text{g/kg}$	<i>Dunaliella salina</i>	10,3 mg/L
Lutein	Corn	12,720 $\mu\text{g/kg}$	<i>Chlorella zofingiensis</i>	21 $\mu\text{g/mL}$
	Marigold	0,3 g/kg	<i>Chlorella protothecoides</i>	225 $\mu\text{g/mL}$
Zeaxanthin	Corn	5,280 $\mu\text{g/kg}$	<i>Dunaliella salina</i>	6 mg/g
	Collard	2,660 $\mu\text{g/kg}$	<i>Phormidium laminosum</i>	5.9 mg/g

Several studies have been conducted highlighting the importance of carotenoids in healthcare as well as in nutraceutical and food industries (Bhosale, 2005; Heo, 2010).

Of the 600 naturally occurring carotenoids, only a few have proven useful in human- and animal-based industries, and these have primarily received focus on their abilities to act as antioxidants.

Industrially, carotenoids are used in pharmaceuticals, nutraceuticals, and animal feed additives and also used as colorants in cosmetics and foods. Interest in carotenoids has increased in recent years because of their beneficial effects on human health.

Carotenoids are considered as protective against cancer, coronary artery disease, and ocular diseases. Lycopene intake is inversely related to prostate cancer risk; intake of foods rich in carotenoids is associated with reduced risk of cardiovascular disease; increased plasma levels of α -carotene, β -carotene, and lycopene tend to be inversely related with ischemic stroke and increased plasma levels of lutein and zeaxanthin are associated with decreased risk of age-related macular degeneration (Giovannucci, 1995; Mayne, 1996; Hak, 2004; Anon, 1993).

The carotenoids market is expected to increase to \$919 million by 2015 with an annual growth rate of 2.3% (Ulrich, 2008). Most of these carotenoids are obtained from synthetic sources; however, synthetic pigments have been perceived to cause hazardous effects to human health at high dose ranges and have been subsequently warned by the Food and Drug Administration (Kalui, 1981).

Therefore, attention is paid to investigating of suitable natural methods for its production. The potential of microorganisms that are able to convert various substrates into carotenoid pigments is gaining interest even this approach is restricted by a number of useful species and also the carotenoid yield cannot compete with chemical synthesis (Misawa, 1997).

Currently, β -carotene and astaxanthin are industrially produced from microbial sources and are widely used in food and feed industries (Bhosale, 2005; Jacokson, 2000; Lorenz, 2000).

The major limitation on the use of microbial systems for commercial production is the low yield, slow growth, and high production cost compared with chemical synthesis.

2.1.1. Industrial Production: Synthesis

The first synthesis of β -carotene was reported by Karrer and Eugster (Karrer 1950) and Inhoffen and co-workers (Inhoffen and Milas, 1950). The Inhoffen synthesis was later developed into an industrial process and since 1954, β -carotene has been produced commercially. The various synthesis of carotenoids employ some key reactions for the formation of the carbon-carbon double bond, in particular, the aldol condensation, the Wittig condensation, the Emmons-Horner reaction, the Julia's method, and the addition of acetylides. The total synthesis was accomplished of peridinin (Fig 2.2), which is representative of the butenolide carotenoids and is known as an auxiliary light-harvesting pigment for photosynthesis. Peridinin is a unique C_{37} -tricyclic carotenoid containing a 4-alkylidenebutenolide structure carrying an allene function in the main polyene chain (Strain, 1976). In this total synthesis, three reactions are included: formation of a 4-alkylidenebutenolide, displaying extended conjugation at the C-2 position, then synthesis of a C_{22} -allenic sulfone possessing the abnormal arrangement of an in-chain methyl group, and lastly palladium-catalyzed olefination of the vinyl triflate.

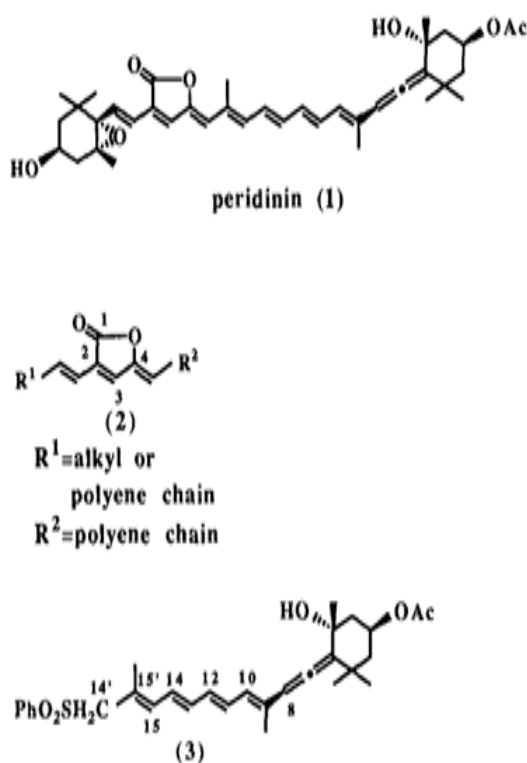


Figure 2.1 : Structures of peridinin(1), 4- alkylidenebutenolides(2), and the C_{22} - allenic sulfone

2.1.2 Microbial Production of Carotenoids

In recent years, the interest in production of natural carotenoids by microbial fermentation has been increased. Carotenogenic microbes such as *Dunaliella salina*, *Xanthophyllomyces dendrorhous*, *Haematococcus pluvialis*, and *Blakeslea trispora* have been investigated for large-scale production (Jacobson, 2000; Mehta, 2003; Raja, 2007). Carotenoid biosynthesis is a specific feature of the *Rhodotorula* species such as *Rhodospiridium* and *Phaffia* genera (Kvasnikova, 1978; Martin, 1993; Meyer, 1994; Buzzini, 2001)

The pigmented yeasts have an advantage over algae, fungi, and bacteria due to unicellular and relatively high growth rate with utilizing low-cost fermentation media (Malisorn, 2008). In literature, the typical concentrations for carotenoids produced from red yeasts were ranged from 50–350 µg/g dry weight (Davoli, 2004). Costa (1989) studied the production of carotenoids by *Rhodotorula* and reported that it produced 630 µg/g dry cells. Frengova (1994) reported that a mixed culture of *R. glutinis* and *Lactobacillus* in whey filtrate was able to produce 268 µg/g dry cells. Sucrose and glucose are the most common carbon sources used in the production of carotenoids. The use of glucose can lead to a higher efficiency in the specific production of carotenoids by *Rhodotorula* spp. (Buzzini, 2000). A number of studies have been carried out in recent years on the fermentation of agricultural wastes to produce carotenoids by different strains in shake flask fermentation that can be seen in Table 2.2 (Martin, 1993; Frengora, 1994; Bhosale, 2001).

However, the types of carotenoids and their relative amount may vary depending on the cultivation medium, temperature, metal ions, light, rate of aeration and the presence some additives (Simpson, 1964; Ausich, 1997; Wang, 2001; Flores, 2001; An, 2001; Aksu, 2005; Buzzini, 2005). Carotenoids production has been also performed successfully in non-carotenogenic microbes, such as *Escherichia coli*, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, *Candida utilis*, and *Zymomonas mobilis*, by transforming them with carotenoid genes from carotenogenic microbes (Misawa and Shimada, 1998).

E. Coli is a suitable host for carotenoid production because it has a powerful genetic tool system for metabolic engineering (Misawa, 1990; Ruther, 1997).

Table 2.2 :The use of agro-industrial wastes in carotenoids production by various yeasts

Substrate	Yeast	Yield	Authors
Whey	<i>R.glutinis</i>	46 mg/L of β -carotene	Marova (2011)
Potato medium	<i>R.mucilaginosa</i>	56 mg/L of β -carotene	Marova (2011)
Crude glycerol	<i>R.glutinis</i>	135.2 mg/L of carotenoides	Saenge (2011)
Whey ultrafiltrate	<i>R.acheniorum</i>	262 mg/L of β -carotene	Nasrabadi and Razavi (2012)
Whey	<i>S.salmonicolor</i>	590.4 mg/L of carotenoides	Valduga (2009)
Fermented radish brine	<i>R.glutinis</i>	19 μ g/L of β -carotene	Malisorn (2009)

Carotenoid-synthesizing yeast is marketed in inactivated dried yeast from *P. rhodozyma* and *Phaffia Astaxanthin* by Partners Ltd's (USA). Also spray dried *P. rhodozyma* is produced by Archer Daniels Midland (USA) as a natural source of astaxanthin, protein, and other nutrients, and utilized in many countries like European Union, Canada, USA as an ingredient in salmonids feed.

2.1.3 Microbial Carotenoid Biosynthesis

In order to discuss the response to stimulants of carotenoid production, it is essential to briefly describe carotenoid biosynthesis, since the activity and quantity of the biosynthetic enzymes are known to significantly influence stimulant activity. Acetyl-CoA is the key precursor of carotenoid biosynthesis in microorganisms. Simpson (1964) and later Goodwin (1980, 1993) reviewed the general pathways for carotenoid synthesis and concluded that carotenoid biosynthetic pathways commonly involve three steps, these include:

1- The conversion of acetyl-CoA to 3-hydroxy-3-methyl glutaryl COA (HMG-CoA) is catalyzed by HMG-CoA synthase. HMG-CoA is then converted into a C6 compound, mevalonic acid (MVA). MVA is converted into isopentyl pyrophosphate (IPP) by a series of reactions involving phosphorylation by MVA kinase followed by decarboxylation.

2- IPP is isomerized to dimethylallyl pyrophosphate (DMAPP) with the sequential addition of three IPP molecules to DMAPP. These reactions are catalyzed by prenyl transferase to yield the C₂₀ compound geranyl geranyl pyrophosphate (GGPP). Production of DMAPP from Acetyl-CoA is represented in Figure (2.2).

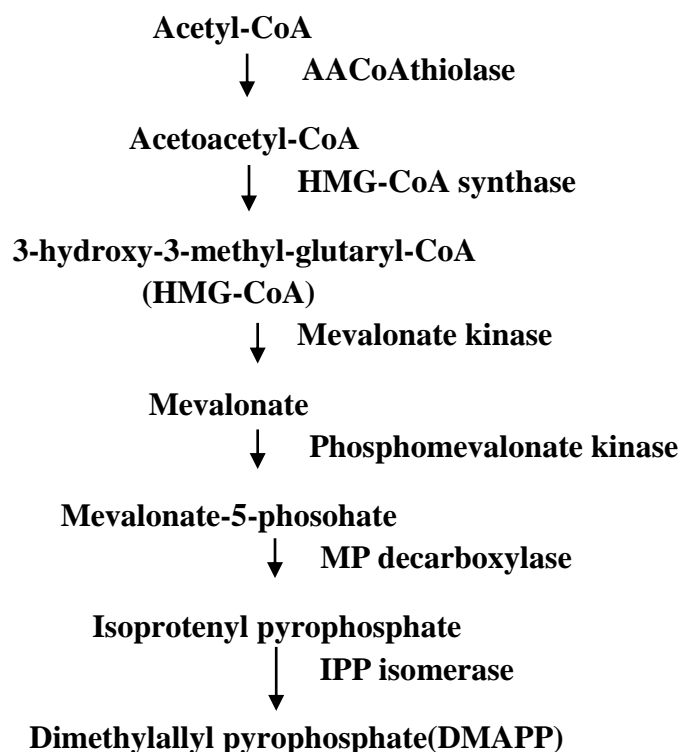


Figure 2.2: First and second steps of carotenoids synthesis(Goodwin 1980, 1993)

3- Two molecules of GGPP condense head to head to form phytoene, which undergoes desaturation to form lycopene and Figure 2.3 represents the schematics of microbial carotenogenesis.

As lycopene is an all-trans compound, the isomerization of the first or second double-bond of the phytoene must occur at the same stage in the desaturation process (Goodwin, 1993).

Lycopene acts as precursor of cyclic carotenoids and undergoes a number of metabolic Xanthophylls are oxygenated products of α - and β -carotenes. Hydroxy groups are introduced at the 3 and 3' positions of the ionone rings, and epoxy groups are subsequently formed at the 5,6 and 5,6' position as in figure 2.3.

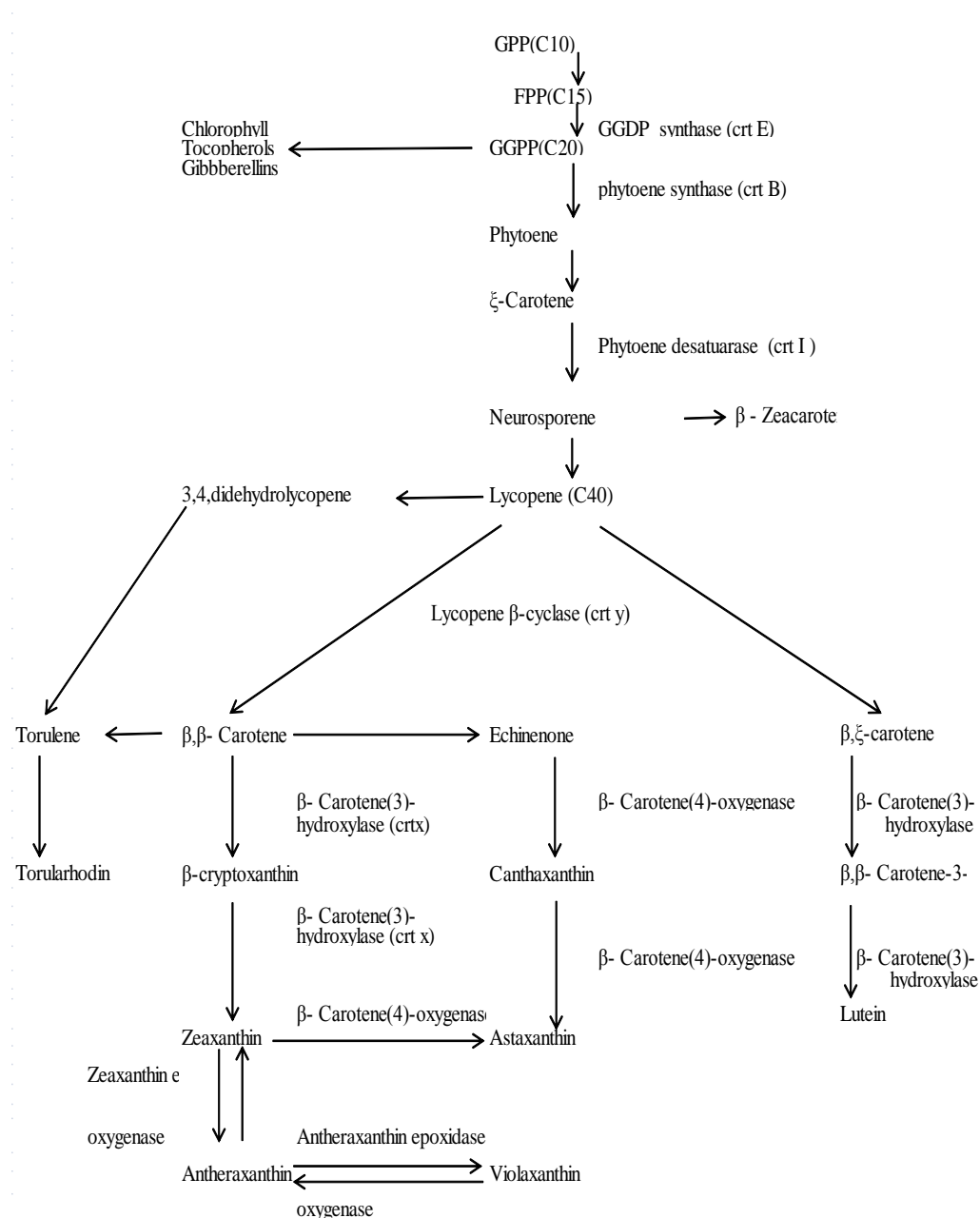


Figure 2.3:Carotenoids biochemical pathway (Sandmann, 1994)

2.1.4 Factors Effecting Carotenoids Production

2.1.4.1 Temperature

Temperature is one of the most important environmental factors affecting the growth and development of living organisms. Temperature was reported to control the concentration of enzymesinvolved in carotenoid production, and changes in enzyme concentration ultimately control carotenoid levels in microorganisms (Hayman, 1974).

The study of the biosynthetic pattern of carotenoid formation by *R. glutinis* 48-23T cultivated at 5 and 25°C in glucose medium proved that, at 5°C the synthesized carotenoids are represented mainly by β -carotene (64%) and significantly less by torulene and torularhodin, when at 25°C the pigments such as β -carotene, torularhodin and torulene were produced in concentrations of about 30% of the total carotenoids (Simpson, 1964). The reason which Bhosale introduced for increased β -carotene accumulation at 90% of total carotenoid by mutant *R. glutinis* at 20°C and a decrease at 71% of total carotenoids as the incubation temperature was increased to 30°C is that γ -carotene acts as the branch point of carotenoid synthesis. And also dehydrogenation and decarboxylation leading to torulene synthesis is known to be temperature dependent since the respective enzymes are less active at lower temperature compared with the activity of β -carotene synthetase (Bhosale, 2002). *Phaffia rhodozyma* cultivated at 20°C synthesized carotenoids with prevailing astaxanthin content (85%) and small β -carotene (10%). But at 30°C the synthesized carotenoids were torularhodin (60%), torulene (30%) and β -carotene (5%) (Polulyakh, 1991). Buzzini and Martini (1999) also reported that the lower temperatures (25°C) seemed to favor synthesis of β -carotene and torulene, whereas higher temperatures (35°C) positively influenced torularhodin synthesis by *R. glutinis*.

Xanthophyllomyces dendrorhous displayed a 50% increase in total carotenoids at low temperatures. Manipulation of the cultures in the presence of diphenylamine and nicotine at 4°C was reported to bring about interconversion of β -carotene to astaxanthin (Ducrey Sanpietro and Kula, 1998).

2.1.4.2 Light

Carotenoid production and accumulation are reported to be positively affected by white-light irradiation in algae, fungi, and bacteria. There are two aspects to the theory of photo induction. The first theory is that light has an effect on growth of the microorganism by its important role in establishing the authentic role of white-light illumination as a stimulant of carotenoid production.

The second aspect that increases in the cellular accumulation (mg/g) of carotenoids are associated with increased activity of enzymes involved in carotenoid biosynthesis. (Ausich, 1997)

Tada and Shiroishi (1982) reported that the carotenoids content cells of *R. minuta*s that had been cultured at 0°C did not increase even with illumination. These results indicate that the carotenoid production in response to light is related to biochemical reactions dependent on nutrient and temperature, but not to changes in precursors due to a photochemical reaction. The control mechanism of carotenoid production by light in *R. minuta*s is similar to that of photoinduced carotenogenesis in fungi and bacteria (Tada and Shiroishi, 1982). Sakaki (2001) reported that torularhodin production of *R. glutinis* can be increased at a cost of growth following exposure to weak white light, and β -carotene was also increased by light irradiation, but the increase was only 14%. However, the negative effect on growth of the yeast can be overcome by manipulating growth conditions, as reported by Bhosale and Gadre (2002), where exposure of a β -carotene-producing mutant of *R. glutinis* to white light in the late exponential growth phase resulted in a 58% increase in β -carotene production with a concurrent decrease in torulene. There are also some investigations showing that, varying light intensities in the presence of organic and inorganic chemical stimulators played an important role in improvement of carotenoid yield from *Dunaliella* sp.

In one of these studies, β -carotene accumulation was increased when the light intensity was increased from 50 to 1250 $\mu\text{mol photon m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ gradually during growth of *Dunaliella salina* (Orset and Young, 1999). However, continuous illumination was found to be most favorable for astaxanthin formation by *Rhodotorula*. *Haematococcus pluvialis* showed a remarkable increase in the concentration of astaxanthin with an increase in light intensity from 50 to 400 $\mu\text{mol photon m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ (Boussiba, 1992).

Lutein accumulation in *Muriellopsis* sp. was enhanced by about 40% when photon flux density increased from 184 to 460 $\mu\text{mol photon m}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$. However, further increases in light intensity led to a decrease in accumulation (Del Campo, 1999).

2.1.4.3 Aeration

Carotenogenesis is an aerobic process and the air flow rate in the yeast culture is an essential factor to assimilate the substrate as well as for growth rate, cell mass and carotenoid synthesis.

The effect of aeration is dependent on the species of the microorganism. The aeration of the mixed culture (*R. rubra*+*L.casei*) influenced not only the amount of carotenoids produced, but also the composition of individual pigments making up the total carotenoids. Increasing the air flow rate causes the relative proportion of β -carotene increased from 42.0 to 60.0%, the proportion of torularhodin decreased from 44.0 to 29.0%, while the proportion of torulene changed only slightly (9.5–11.0%) (Sinova, 2003). *R. lactosa*, shows slight increase by increasing the air flow rate. The relative proportion of β -carotene and torulene increased from 18.2 to 21.5% and from 10.3 to 14.6%, respectively, whereas the proportion of torularhodin decreased from 71.5 to 63.9% (Zalashko, 1990).

The optimal values of air flow rate and agitation are in the range 0.5–1.9 L/min and at 180–900 rpm for carotenogenesis by *Rhodotorula* and *Phaffia* (Frengova, 1994; Bhosale, 2001; Hu, 2006). Sakaki (1999) reported that the dissolved oxygen causes increase in content of torularhodin produced by *R. glutinis*.

2.1.4.4 C/N ratio

Numerous previous studies have shown that the C/N ratio has a significant influence on cell growth and carotenoid biosynthesis in some microorganisms including yeasts. Most studies have suggested that a high C/N ratio is more favorable for the biosynthesis of carotenoids.

A study by Somashekar and Joseph (2000) found that a medium with high C/N=16:1 ratio tended to produce lipids and carotenoids with high biomass which is observed at C/N=10:1. Yamane (1997) proposed that a high initial C/N ratio may decrease the consumption of NADPH for primary metabolism such as protein synthesis, so as to leave more NADPH available for carotenoids (astaxanthin) biosynthesis.

Aksu and Eren (2007) reported an optimum carotenoid production from minimal salts media with three different C/N ratios by the yeast *R. gracilis*, and found that a C/N ratio of 10 favored maximum carotenoid production. Braunwald (2013) also observed that at low initial ammonium contents (C/N: 120), the carotenoid production decreased compared to medium ammonium contents (C/N: 70).

2.1.4.5 Additives

Some agents, such as detergent additives, oils, surfactants have been known to increase carotenoids productivity.

For example, the supplementation of ethanol at 10 g/L or acetic acid at 5 g/L was reported to stimulate cell mass accumulation and astaxanthin formation in fed-batch culture of *P. Rhodozyma*. As a result, the astaxanthin concentrations of 45.62 mg/L and 43.87 mg/L were obtained, respectively, which were about 25% higher than control experiments which were conducted without ethanol or acetic acid (Kim, 2004).

Addition of ethanol (2%, v/v) was reported to stimulate β -carotene and torulene formation in *Rhodotorula glutinis* (Margalith and Meydavi, 1968).

Stabnikova (1979) described the use of ethanol (3.6%) as the sole source of carbon and energy in a culture medium supporting growth and β -carotene formation by *Rhodotorula glutinis*. Gu (1997) also reported increased carotenoid production from 1.65 mg carotenoids/g cells to 2.65 mg carotenoids/g cells upon addition of 0.2% (v/v) ethanol to cultures of the yeast *X. dendrorhous*. Many studies revealed that ethanol activates oxidative metabolism with induction of HMG-CoA reductase, which in turn enhances carotenoid production.

The β -carotene content in cells of *R. glutinis* increased up to 35% when phenol was added to culture medium at 500 ppm (Kim, 2004).

Flores-Cotera (2001) reported that supplementation of citrate in the medium at levels of 28 μ M or higher notably increased the final carotenoid concentration from 3.2 to 4.5 mg/L in cells *P. Rhodozyma*. Penicillin exerts a stimulating effect during early stages of the isoprene biosynthetic pathway since mevalonate kinase activity was almost double in the presence of penicillin (Desai and Modi, 1977).

Different sources such as oils have been investigated for production of carotenoids. Aksu and Eren (2005) reported that the supplementation of cotton seed oil in the culture medium for growth of *R. mucilaginosa* resulted in an increased production of total carotenoids. The yeast produced 57.6 mg/L carotenoid with cotton seed oil, while 39.5 mg/L carotenoid was formed without the activators.

Effect of cotton seed oil and Tween 80 (1% v/v) on carotenoid production was studied with two different concentrations of glucose (5 g/L, 15 g/L), and at low glucose concentrations, cotton oil significantly increased production of total carotenoids while Tween 80 gave the highest amount of carotenoids at 15 g/L of glucose concentration of 69.0 mg/L (Aksu, 2007).

The carotenoids yields in the presence of tomato juice at 2.6 ml/l, groundnut oil at 1.0 ml/l, vitamin B₂ at 3.5 ml/l or vitamin B₁ at 2.2 ml/l in a fermentation medium for growth, *Rhodotorula strain* were 34.36, 17.28, 11.27 and 8.3% higher than that in the control culture, respectively (Wang, 2001).

2.1.5 Types of Microbial Carotenoids

2.1.5.1 Astaxanthin

Astaxanthin is the most commonly occurring red carotenoid in microorganisms.

Two major microorganisms such as microalga *H. pluvialis* and heterobasidiomycetous yeast *Xanthophyllomyces dendrorhous* produce astaxanthin commercially (Johnson, 2003; Bhosale, 2005). Chemical structure of astaxanthin is given in Figure (2.4).

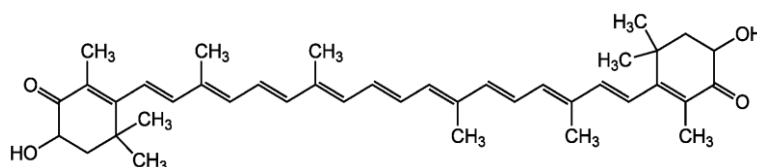


Figure 2.4 : Chemical structure of Astaxanthin (Nelis, 1991)

De la Fuente (2010) reported an improved semi-industrial process for astaxanthin production by the fermentation of *X. Dendrorhous*, in which volumetric yield was 350 mg/L of astaxanthin.

Many low cost by-products and residues of agro-industrial origin have shown the possibility of astaxanthin production from several materials such as molasses and grape juice (Haard, 1988; Breitenbach, 2001).

2.1.5.2 β -Carotene

β -Carotene is an important compound because of its role as an antioxidant, and as precursor of vitamin A in food and feed products (Borowitzka, 1992). Chemical structure of β -Carotene is given in Figure 2.5.

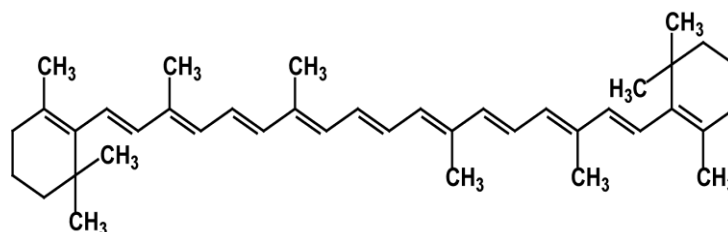


Figure 2.5: Chemical structure of β -Carotene (Borowitzka, 1992)

Commercially available β -carotene is produced mainly from the genus *Dunaliella* (Raja, 2007; Ye, 2008). Since 1980, *Dunaliella* powder and extracts have been available in Israel, China, USA, Australia, and Mexico (Johson, 1996; Borowitzka, 1999). Besides *Dunaliella*, the greatest yields have been obtained by *Blakeslea trispora* (Ciegler, 1965). Yoon (2009) reported a novel approach by the combinatorial expression of the whole bacterial mevalonate pathway for the production of β -carotene in *Escherichia coli*. The recombinant *E. coli* DH5, harboring the whole MVA pathway and β -carotene synthesis genes produced a β -carotene yield of 465 mg/L at a glycerol concentration of 2% w/v.

2.1.5.3 Lycopene

Lycopene is the most effective singlet oxygen quencher because it contains nine or more conjugated double bonds as shown in Figure 2.5 (Di, 1991).

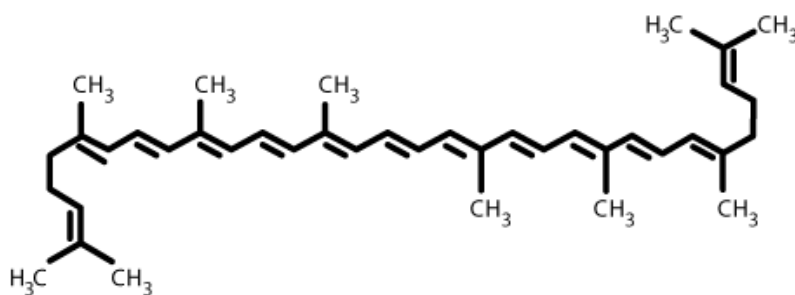


Figure 2.6 : Chemical structure of lycopene (Di, 1991).

Fungi of the genera *Phycomyces* and *Blakeslea* are the potential lycopene producers. Chemical stimulators such as pyridine, imidazole, and methylheptenone have been reported to stimulate lycopene accumulation in *B. Trispora* and *P. blakesleeanus* (Feofiva, 1995).

Lycopene finds applications in beverages, dairy foods, confectionery, soups, nutritional bars, breakfast cereals, pastas, chips, sauces, snacks, dips, and spreads (Anon, 1992).

2.1.5.4. Lutein

Lutein is one of the fastest growing carotenoids on the market. Currently, the natural commercial source of lutein is the solvent extract of marigold (Khachik, 2005). Chemical structure is shown in Figure 2.7.

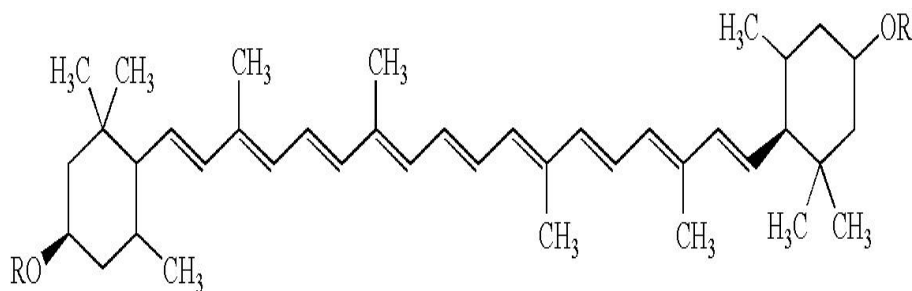


Figure 2.7 : Chemical structure of lutein (Nelis, 1991)

In recent years, several microalgae have been studied as potential lutein sources, such as *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii*, *Muriellopsis sp.* and *Scenedesmus almeriensis*; however, microbial sources still lack commercial potential mainly due to lack of studies involving strain improvement and high-volume bioreactors (Francis, 1975; Del, 2001).

2.1.5.5 Zeaxanthin

Zeaxanthin is an isomer of lutein, chemical structure is shown in Figure 2.8 (Khachik, 1989; Nelis, 1991).

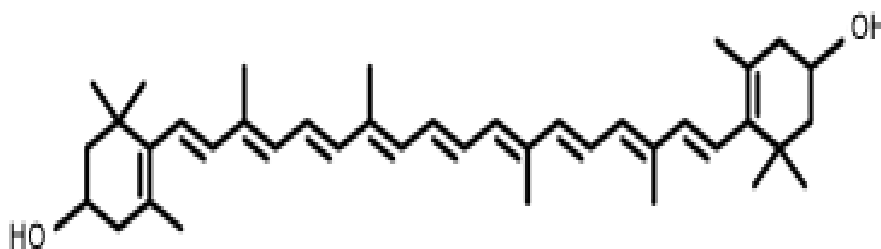


Figure 2.8: Chemical structure of zeaxanthin (Nelis, 1991)

Marine bacterium *Flavobacterium* species are well documented for their zeaxanthin production. Zeaxanthin occurs in cyanobacteria, unlike lutein, which is typically present in photosynthetic microorganisms and also in some non-photosynthetic bacteria (Fresnedo, 1991; Nelis, 1991). Other microbial sources include *Dunaliella sp.*, which produces zeaxanthin under various stress and gene manipulation conditions and *Microcystis aeruginosa* (Jin, 2003; Chem, 2005).

2.1.6 Purification and Separation of Carotenoids

2.1.6.1 Extraction of Carotenoids

All classes of carotenoids are lipophilic compounds and are soluble in oils and organic solvents.

Generally, water-miscible solvents including acetone, ethanol, methanol, or mixtures of these polar solvents and other more nonpolar solvents such as hexane, tetrahydrofuran (THF), diethyl ether, and methylene chloride have been used in many studies to extract carotenoids in foods. Methanol (MeOH) alone or a mixture of MeOH with other more nonpolar solvents is also widely used (Hart, 1992).

Recently cell disintegration is achieved to increase carotenoids extraction. Generally cell disintegration is done by mechanical breakage and acid or alkaline hydrolysis (Gu, 2007). Enzymatic digestion of cells also appears as an attractive option, presumably resulting in higher recovery rates of carotenoids from the microbial matrix (Michelon, 2012).

A combination of lysozyme/lyticase with synergistic sonication and freeze thawing provide a beneficial and robust alternative to other mechanical disruption methods (Kaiser, 2007). Lipases have been used to disintegrate lipid droplets containing carotenoids and to prevent capillary plugging of the HPLC system (Johnson, 1991; Davoli, 2003). Cell disruption techniques used in carotenoid extraction are summarized in Table 2.3.

Table 2.3: Different techniques of cell disruption used in carotenoid extraction

Disruption technology	Yeast	Yield µg/g biomass	Authors
HCL and acetone	<i>Rhodobacter sphaeroides</i>	4790	Gu (2007)
DMSO, acetone and petroleum ether	<i>Rhodotorula graminis</i>	803.2	Buzzini (2001)
Freezing and DMSO	<i>Phaffia rhodozyma</i>	155.72	Michelonet (2012)
Enzymetic lysis and ultrasonic waves	<i>Phaffia rhodozyma</i>	163.12	Michelonet (2012)

2.1.6.2 Spectrophotometric Methods

The total carotenoid content was determined by colorimetry, which was performed by subjective comparison of colors or by objective measurements of color intensities with a colorimeter or photometer. Nowadays, spectrophotometry, which allows one to measure the absorption at a single wavelengths, is predominant.

During quantitative determination of total carotenoids, the sample is dissolved in an accurately known volume of the appropriate solvent and a 1 cm light path cuvette is filled with the solution; the matching reference cuvette is filled with the pure solvent. For quantitative determination by measuring absorbance in the UV region, matched quartz cuvettes must be used, and the solvent must be free from UV absorbing materials. The absorbance of the solution is then determined at the appropriate wavelength. The extinction (E_{\max}) of a known volume of a carotenoid solution is measured at the wavelength of maximal absorbance; the amount of carotenoid (C) dissolved in a given volume (V) is obtained from the expression:

$$C = \frac{E_{\max} \cdot V}{E_{1\%, 1\text{cm}}} \cdot 100 \quad (\mu\text{g/L}) \quad (2.1)$$

In the formula, $E_{1\%}$ is the specific extinction coefficient of a 1% solution in a 1 cm light path cell. The absorption maxima of carotenoids in various solvents and their extinction coefficients are given in Table 2.4 (Davies, 1971). For the determination of a mixture of carotenoids, the measurement is carried out at a wavelength of 436 nm, the $E_{1\text{cm}1\%}$ of β -carotene = 2505 is generally used, and the results are expressed as β -carotene. The detection limit for β -carotene and lycopene is 0.04 $\mu\text{g/g}$ (Sadler, 1990).

Table 2.4 : Specific extinction coefficient ($E_{1\%, 1\text{cm}}$) of carotenoids in stated solvents

Carotenoid	$E_{1\text{cm}, 1\%}$	Wave length (λ)	Solvent
Astaxanthin	1900	473	Acetone
β-carotene	2505	457	Cyclohexane
Lutein	2336	458	Benzene
Lycopene	3370	487	Benzene
Zeaxanthin	2340	452	Acetone

Aksu et al (2005) determined the carotenoid from *R. glutinis* spectrophotometrically after biomass centrifugation and addition of acetone to extract intracellular carotenoids (Aksu, 2005; Aksu, 2007). Total carotenoids from *R. glutinis* after extraction were measured spectrophotometrically (Frenogova, 1994; Buzzini, 2007).

2.1.6.3. Thin-Layer Chromatography

Since its introduction in the late 1950s, TLC has been the most versatile and effective method for purifying carotenoids, and remains extremely useful even in laboratories with good HPLC facilities. TLC is used both for separation and purification and for partial identification of carotenoids by comparison with authentic samples.

In carotenoid analysis TLC is mainly used for preliminary examinations to give an indication of the number and variety of carotenoids present and to help in the selection of a suitable separation and purification procedure for the given mixture (Davies, 1976).

The crude carotenoids extract from *R. glutinis* was chromatographed on thin layer of a mixture of silica gel G60 and calcium hydroxide (1:1w/w) using 5% benzene in petroleum ether (b.p. 80°C - 100°C) as developing system. The separated carotenoids were identified by their maximum absorption and also by their R_f values. (Davies, 1965; Stahl, 1969)

The fraction of the crude carotenoids from *R. glutinis* was done by TLC; silica gel G was used as an absorbent and two solvent benzene (95:5), petroleum ether (95:5) were used for separation of non polar and polar components (Latha , 2004). Also microbial carotenoids from *R. glutinis* were chromatographed using pre-coated TLC plates (silica gel 60) (Bhosale, 2001).

2.1.6.4. High-Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC)

The technique of HPLC has been widely applied to the study and analysis of carotenoids. Compared with another methods, HPLC is characterized by short analysis time, high resolution, good reproducibility, and little structural modification. Generally, carotenoids are identified through their chromatographic behavior or by coelution with authentic standards. Additionally the identity of carotenoids can be confirmed by their UV–VIS absorption spectra, which can be recorded by a stopped-flow scanning method or on-line with a photodiode array detector. For the stationary phase both normal-phase and reversed-phase HPLC are used, the elution being either isocratic or with a gradient; the latter is especially employed for complex extracts containing carotenoids of widely different polarities (Britton, 1992).

A modified method of HPLC analysis was performed in detection of carotenoids with analytical HPLC equipped with a C18 column (4.6mmx 250mm, 5µm).

The mobile phase was composed of acetonitrile:dichloromethane:methanol (80:10:10,v/v/v) with a flow rate of 1.0 mL/min. The column thermostat was set at 30°C. The detector was operated at 454 nm; in a linear gradient for 45 min, maintaining this proportion until the end of the run (Manowatlana, 2012). Carotenoid analysis was performed for the extracts obtained from *R. mucilaginosa* CBS17T and *R. Glutinis* CBS20T type strains by reverse phase HPLC employing a LiChrospher (100RP)18 (5µm) column and a UV–Vis PerkinElmer 900 detector (set at 450 nm). The solvent system consisted of solvent A: acetone and B: water, 95:5 (v/v). The flow rate was 1 mL/min. (Libkind, 2006).

2.2 Lipids

Lipids are organic compounds that are insoluble in water but soluble in organic solvents. There are two general types of lipids including complex and simple lipids. The complex lipids such as triacylglycerols, can be hydrolyzed to smaller molecules. The Acyl- and phosphor-glycerols, the most common lipids are based on structure of glycerol and fatty acids. Acylglycerols have a glycerol backbone linked to one, two and three fatty acids with ester bonding to provide mono-di- and tri-acylglycerols, respectively (Dyal and Narine, 2005). The major components in natural oils and fats are triacylglycerols. Thus, the defined terms of oil and fat are often used to mean triacylglycerols. However, the other components still exist in small amounts within natural fats and oils including mono and diacylglycerols, phospholipids, waxes, steroids and carotenoids (Stauffer, 1996).

2.2.1. Microbial Lipids

Many organisms synthesize lipids as an integral part of their metabolites and as energy storage compounds. The ability of certain microorganisms to accumulate high amounts of lipids has been known for years, but only in the last decades, real efforts have been made to unravel the underlying biochemical pathways.

In general, lipid accumulation is found in some yeast, fungi and small number of algae. In eukaryotic microorganisms, such as *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* and *Candida utilis*, the biosynthetic pathway of triacylglycerides is essential to cell vitality yet lipid content is normally <5% of their cellular biomass (Mlickova, 2004). Although all microorganisms have to synthesize minimum amount of lipid content for their membranes and other structures, only small number of microorganisms can accumulate lipid higher than 20% of their biomass. They are named as “oleaginous microorganisms” (Ratledge, 2002).

Therefore, some yeast that accumulates high concentration of lipid is defined as “oleaginous yeast” (Thorp and Ratledge, 1972). It was reported that only 25 species in 700 yeast species can accumulate lipid more than 20% of biomass such as *Rhodotorula spp.*, *Yarrowia lipolitica*, *Lipomyces starkeyi* and *Cryptococcus curvatus*(Ratledge, 2004). The lipid accumulated in oleaginous yeasts is mainly in triacylglycerol form and equivalent in chemical composition of the vegetable oils and fats (Ratledge and Evan, 1989).

The relative amount of fatty acid compositions in oleaginous yeasts are oleic acid (18:1) > palmitic acid (16:0) > linolenic acid (18:2) = stearic acid (18:0) (Ratledge and Tan, 1990).

Fatty acid composition of lipid produced by various yeast strains growing on sugars or similarly –metabolized like glycerol, molasses, etc substrates in culture conditions favoring the accumulation of microbial lipid is explained in Table 2.5.

Table 2.5 : Composition of lipids produced by various yeast strains

<i>Strain</i>	Lipid %	C16:0	C16:1	C18:0	C18:1	C18:2	C18:3	Reference
<i>Candida sp. 107</i>	n.r.	28	n.r.	8	41	17	17	Davies (1957)
<i>Candida sp.</i>	40.3	23	13	3	54	5	2	Aggelis (1997)
<i>R. toruloides</i>	67.5	20	1	15	47	13	3	Li (2007)
<i>R. toruloides</i>	65.2	34	T.	13	48	1	T.	Hu (2009)
<i>R. toruloides</i>	62.1	26	2	5	62	3	T.	Wu (2010)
<i>R. toruloides</i>	55.6	43	T.	16	35	2	T.	Wu (2011)
<i>L.starkeyi</i>	61.5	37	4	6	49	1	T.	Zhao (2010)
<i>Y.lipolytica</i>	43.2	15	2	11	47	21	3	Aggelis (2002)

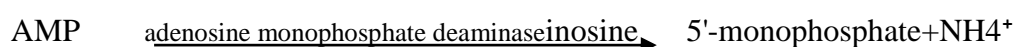
T:<0.5 % w/w, nr: not reported

2.2.2 The Biochemistry of Lipid Accumulation by Yeasts

It is necessary to understand how oleaginous yeasts synthesize fatty acid and accumulate lipid in their cells. In some oleaginous yeasts, the content of storage lipid may reach to 70% of their biomass when culture in optimized medium. The excess carbon is converted to lipid by lipid biosynthesis which is accumulated within lipid bodies (Ratledge, 2004).

Non-oleaginous yeasts such as *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* and *Candida utilis* never accumulate lipid higher than 10% of their biomass (Ratray, 1989). When cultivation of non-oleaginous yeasts in nitrogen-limiting medium they convert excess carbon source into various polysaccharides such as glucans and mannans (Ratledge and Wynn, 2002).

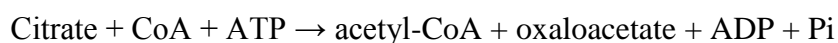
The first biochemical reaction after nitrogen exhaust from the medium is an activation of adenosine monophosphate deaminase which catalyzes the conversion of AMP to inosine 5'-monophosphate and ammonium (Evan and Ratledge, 1985).



Ammonia-scavenging mechanism including decreasing in AMP concentration results in changing of oxygen consumption by the cells and releasing of CO₂ (Ratledge and Wynn, 2002), causing reduction or depletion of isocitrate dehydrogenase activity. The isocitrate is not metabolized via tricarboxylic acid cycle because the depletion of isocitrate dehydrogenase activity would then equilibrate to citrate via activity of aconitase (Evan and Ratledge, 1983).



Citrate is transported out of mitochondria to cytosol by malate/citrate translocase system (Evan and Ratledge, 1985). The citrate within cytosol is cleaved by ATP:citrate lyase, which is not found in non-oleaginous microorganism but found in eukaryotic which can accumulate triacylglycerol lipids (Botham and Ratledge, 1979).



Accumulation of lipids in oleaginous yeast and molds are shown in Figure 2.9 (Ratledge and Wynn,2002).

There is a direct correlation between ATP:citratelyase activity and the ability of lipid accumulation in yeasts, filamentous fungi and other oleaginous microorganism (Ratledge and Wynn, 2002). No organism has been found to accumulate lipid higher than 20% of their biomass without ATP:citratelyase activity.

However, there are a small number of yeasts that have been found this activity but do not accumulate lipid. There is no correlation between the absolute activity of ATP:citratelyase and the concentration of lipid accumulation in various yeasts and fungi. Thus, it cannot be the sole explanation for accumulation of lipid (Ratledge, 2002).

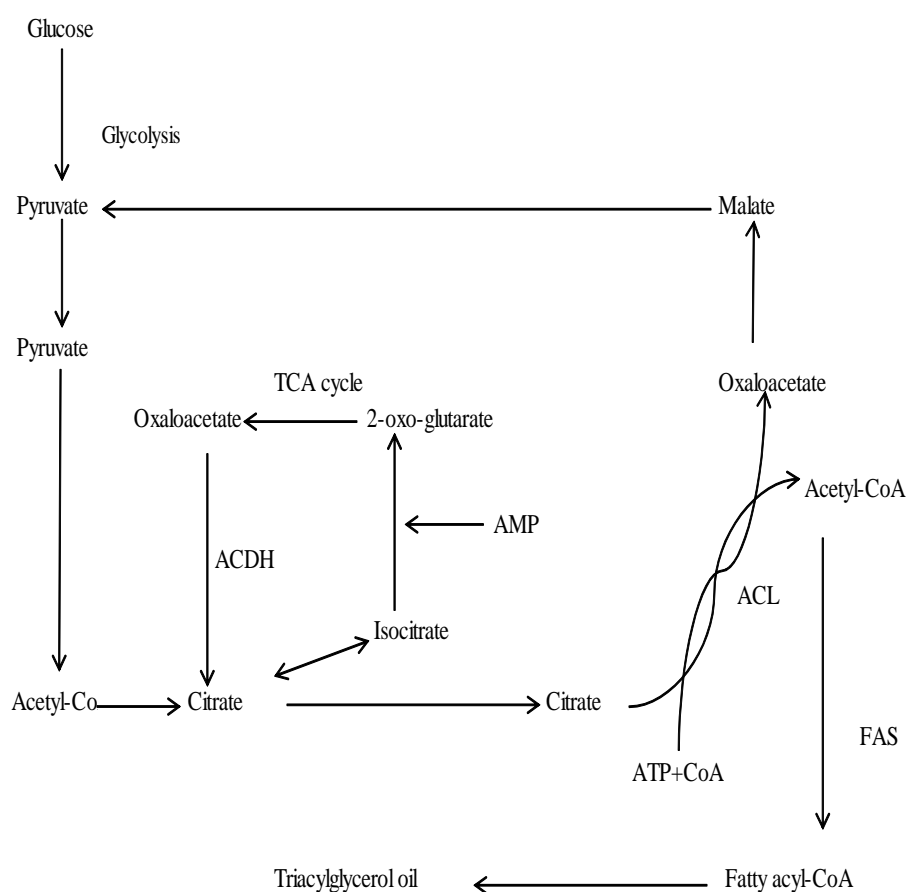


Figure 2.9: Outline of the accumulation of lipids in oleaginous yeast and mold (Ratledge and Wynn,2002).

*ICDL: isocitrate dehydrogenase; TCA cycle: tricarboxylic acid cycle;
ACL:ATP citrate lyase, FAS fatty acid synthase

2.2.3 Efficiency of Yeasts for Lipid Accumulation

The fatty acid profiles depend on oleaginous yeast types and growth conditions. Environmental conditions such as temperature, pH, substrate, C/N ratio and oxygen have influence on efficiency of yeasts for lipid accumulation. In principle, a good range of productivity of lipid product can be achieved in batch, fed-batch and continuous processes. The process of yeast lipid production was improved in both batch and single stage continuous fermentations (Gill, 1977; Evans and Ratledge, 1984). Gill (1977) used single stage continuous process for culturing oleaginous yeast, *Candida 107*, and found that this yeast strain accumulated lipid at 35% of dry biomass when glucose was used as the substrate. Lipid production by *Candida curvatas* (*Cryptococcus curvatus*) was investigated both in batch and continuous fermentations using media containing glucose, sucrose, lactose, xylose or ethanol. Results showed that when xylose was used, lipid production of 49 % of dry biomass was obtained in batch fermentation while 37% of dry biomass was attended with continuous fermentation (Evans and Ratledge, 1983). Lipid production by *Rhodospiridium toruloides* Y4 in batch fermentation resulted in accumulation of lipids up to 76% of dry biomass when glucose was used as a substrate (Li, 2006). Ykema (1989) investigated lipid production by *Candida curvatus* using various culture systems using whey permeate and lipid content of 33% of dry biomass were obtained when a partial recycling method was used. Meesters (1996) used glycerol as a carbon source in fed-batch fermentation with *Candida curvatus* and obtained a cell density of 118 g/L, and lipid content was only 25% of dry biomass. Oleaginous yeast, *Rhodospiridium toruloides* Y4, was reported to produce lipid at 67.5% of dry biomass by using fed-batch mode (Li, 2007). The rate of lipid synthesis in oleaginous microorganisms depends mostly on high C:N ratio (Ratledge, 1982). *Apiotrichum curvatum* has given high lipid content such as 50% of cells dry weight with whey permeates in continuous fermentation with a high C:N ratio (Ykema, 1988). Because of the high accumulation of citrate which is transported to the cytosol for further breakdown to produce acetyl-CoA. High lipid accumulation in cells of oleaginous yeast is obtained under limiting nitrogen concentration conditions. The oleaginous yeast *L.starkeyi* delivered lipid content of 68% at a C:N ratio of 150 compared to 40% in the presence of a C:N ratio of 60 while growing on digested sewage sludge (Angerbauer, 2008).

Similar results were obtained by Patil (2010), they used a semi-synthetic medium for cultivation of *L. starkeyi*, and reported a maximum lipid content of 27% fed-batch fermentation, which is slightly lipid content of 23% in batch fermentation of *L. starkeyi* on glucose in a semi-synthetic medium with C:N molar ratio of 56.7. *Rhodotorula glutinis* with batch fermentation can accumulate lipids up to 49% of cell dry weight and 14.7 g/L lipid, while production in a continuous mode of operation, lipid contents increased to 60.7% and 23.4 g/L lipid (Dai, 2007).

Lipid accumulation by *Rhodospiridium toruloides* Y4 was directly linked to the carbon to phosphorus (C:P) molar ratios of the culture media. Moreover, such lipid accumulation phenomenon was effective regardless of the presence of high amounts of nitrogen sources. Thus, cellular lipid content and lipid yield were 62.2% and 0.205 g/g glucose, respectively, using a medium with a carbon to nitrogen C:N molar ratio of 6.1 and a C:P molar ratio of 9552 mol/mol. (Wu, 2010).

Sulphate limitation was effective to promote accumulating substantial amounts of intracellular lipid by the oleaginous yeast *Rhodospiridium toruloides* Y4. When it was cultivated using a medium with an initial carbon-to-sulfur (C:S) molar ratio of 46.750 cellular lipid content reached up to 58.3% (Wu, 2011).

2.3 Oleaginous Microorganism: *Rhodospiridium toruloides*

Rhodospiridium toruloides which is a non-pathogenic, pink-coloured basidiomycetous fungus, can accumulate lipids to more than 70 % of its dry cell weight (Ratledge, 2002; Li, 2007). This yeast is also a good producer of carotenoids and biotechnologically important enzymes, such as cephalosporin esterase and epoxide hydrolase (Politino, 1997; Buzzini, 2007).

More importantly, *R. toruloides* has excellent tolerance of inhibitory compounds that are found in biomass hydrolysates (Hu, 2009).

R. toruloides is considered to be a unique yeast strain of great biotechnological potential. In comparison with *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, *R. toruloides* contains ATP:citrate lyase (ACL), and the mitochondrial β -oxidation (MBO) and carotenoid biosynthetic pathways. Acetyl-CoA, which results from the cleavage of citrate by ACL, is a major source for lipid synthesis although cytoplasmic acetyl-CoA synthase can produce acetyl-CoA from acetate in oleaginous fungi and eukaryotes.

Unlike β -oxidation in peroxisomes, the MBO mitochondrial β -oxidation pathway recovers more energy through the degradation of fatty acids by using the flavin adenine dinucleotide (FAD) cofactor, which couples with the respiratory chain to produce ATP.

Moreover, MBO-associated enzymes are required to metabolize branched-chain amino acids to produce acetyl-CoA (Maggio, 2004). Thus, MBO may provide alternative acetyl-CoA and energy sources for fatty acid synthesis by degrading amino acids and membrane lipids.

Two genes that code putative carotenoid synthesis-related enzymes, phytoene synthase (PSY1) and phytoene dehydrogenase (CRTI), were identified, revealing the genetic basis for the formation of the pink-coloured pigments by this organism (Zhu, 2012).

The biochemistry of lipid accumulation in microorganisms using glucose as the carbon source has been extensively investigated. Previous data indicated that lipid production requires media with an excess sugar or similar components and a shortage of other nutrients, usually a nitrogen source, while de novo lipid biosynthesis occurs (Boulton and Ratledge, 1983).

When hydrophobic materials are used as substrates, lipid accumulation is a primary anabolic activity evolving simultaneously with biomass formation (Papanikolaou, 2001).

It has been shown that the activity of isocitrate dehydrogenase in oleaginous microbes is low under nitrogen-deficient conditions because of the diminishing return of its allosteric regulator AMP, resulting in a metabolic flux shift to lipid biosynthesis. In addition, ATP:citrate lyase and malic enzyme are also important (Ratledge and Wynn, 2002). Most eukaryotic oleaginous species are yeasts, such as *Cryptococcus* sp., *Lipomyces* sp., *Rhodotorula* sp., *Rhodospiridium* sp. and *Trichosporon* sp. (Ratledge, 2002). Among them, *Rhodospiridium toruloides* is known to accumulate high quantities of lipids and such feature makes it attractive for the edible foods sector and biodiesel industry (Liu and Zhao, 2007).

Despite the fact that *R. toruloides* showed an excellent capability for lipid production, the detailed molecular mechanism for lipid accumulation remains unexplored for this basidiomycete species.

The genome of *R. toruloides* has not been sequenced and no genetic work has been reported for this so far.

2.3.1 Enzymes of Lipid and Carotenoids Biosynthesis in *Rhodosporidium toruloides*

-ATP:citrate lyase (ACL) supplies the prerequisite acetyl-CoA for fatty acid biosynthesis in oleaginous yeasts (Boulton & Ratledge, 1983). There was a decrease in activity of ACL when the yeast utilized either endogenous or exogenous lipid (Jane, 1988).

-Malic enzyme occurs in the cytosol and its putative role in lipogenesis is to provide NADPH for fatty acid biosynthesis (Botham & Ratledge, 1979; Ratledge, 1986; Ratledge, 1987).

-Carnitine acetyltransferase (CAT) serves to transport acetyl units into and out of the mitochondria and peroxisomes (Fukui & Tanaka, 1979).

-Isocitrate lyase (ICL) regulates the simultaneous operation of the tricarboxylic acid and glyoxylate cycles is induced in cells grown on C₂ compounds such as ethanol or acetate, or on fatty acids, which are degraded to C₂ compounds.

-NADP⁺-dependent isocitrate dehydrogenase (ICDH). There was a slight increase in ICDH activity during growth on exogenous lipid but there was no significant increase in activity during growth on endogenous lipid (Jane, 1988).

-Catalase is regarded as a marker enzyme for peroxisomes (Fukui & Tanaka, 1979). The changes in specific activity of the enzyme were slight during lipid utilization (Jane, 1988).

Jane (1988) had mentioned in his research the changing of the enzyme activities in two strains of *R. toruloides* and their activities in many growth media that can be seen in Table 2.6.

The enzymes which related to carotenoids biosynthesis were mentioned in some researches and until now there weren't many researches in definition of them.

Two genes that code putative carotenoid synthesis-related enzymes, phytoene synthase (PSY1) and phytoene dehydrogenase (CRTI), were identified, revealing the genetic basis for the formation of the pink-coloured pigments by *R. Toruloides*. (Zhu, 2012).

Carotenoids biosynthesis enzymes were also mentioned in the research of Kim (1997) which contain GGDP synthase (GrtE), Phytoene synthase (Grt B), Phytoene desaturase (Grt Y), β -Crotene 3-hydroxylase, β -Carotene 4-oxygenase, Zeaxanthin epoxidase, Antheraxanthin epoxidase, Oxygenase.

Table 2.6 : Activities of some enzymes of *R. Toruloides* strains

Yeast	Growth medium*	ACL	CAT	Catalase	ICDH	ICL	Malic enzyme
<i>R. toruloids</i> CBS 14	Nitrogen-limited	65	95	4×10 ³	45	7	37
	Carbon-starvation	11	92	2×10 ³	40	62	20
	Triolein	8	469	2×10 ³	64	137	21
<i>R. toruloids</i> ATCC 26217	Nitrogen-limited	74	96	4×10 ³	32	4	18
	Carbon-starvation	13	101	2×10 ³	43	65	25
	Triolein	3	705	1×10 ³	49	144	0

Enzyme activity {nmol(mg protein)⁻¹}. *Nitrogen limited =lipid accumulating; carbon starvation=endogenous lipid utilizing ;triolein=exogenous lipid utilizing (Jane, 1988)

3 MATERIAL AND METHODS

3.1 Organism and Medium

R. toruloides Y27012 was maintained at 4°C on PDY agar slant (2% glucose, 1% yeast extract, 1% peptone, and 2% agar). (Xu, 2012; Hu, 2009 , Zhou, 2013). Then the culture was sub-cultured twice a month.

3.2. Incubation

Yeast cells were pre-cultured in the medium containing 2 % glucose, 0.1 % KH_2PO_4 , 0.05 % yeast extract and 0.02 % $(\text{NH}_2)_2\text{SO}_4$ at 30°C using shaker rotating at 200 rpm for 24 h (Liu, 2009; Xu, 2012; Zhao, 2011). For batch fermentation 100 mL of medium which was composed of KH_2PO_4 (8 g/L), $\text{MgSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (0.5 g/L), carbon source and nitrogen source was used for carotenoids and lipid production, , shaken at 200 rpm/min, and incubated at 30°C after adding 2 % v/v of the pre-culture (Liu, 2009; Xu, 2012). Batch fermentations were carried out for 5 days and the pH was not adjusted during the process (Buzzini and Martini, 1999).

3.3 Harvest Method

Cells in 10 mL culture broth was washed twice with distilled water, and then dried at 80°C until constant weight to obtain DCW (dry constant weight). Cell biomass was calculated according to equation (3.1) (Economou, 2010; Huang, 2013; Wu, 2010; Hu, 2009).

$$\text{Cell biomass} = x = \frac{\text{dry weight (g)}}{\text{volume (L)}} \quad (\text{Economou, 2010}) \quad (3.1)$$

3.4 Metabolite Production

3.4.1 Carotenoid Production

The total carotenoid content was determined by colorimetry after extraction by acetone.

3.4.1.1 Carotenoid Extraction

Two extraction methods, ultrasonic treatment and HCl-assisted extraction for carotenoid extraction from *R. toruloides* Y27012 were compared with the control extraction method in term of efficiency (Gu, 2008).

Glucose as carbon source (40 g/L) and yeast extract as nitrogen source (3.72 g/L) were used in the medium of the batch fermentation to have carbon:nitrogen (C:N) ratio of 40. The detailed extraction process of each method was described as follows:

(1) HCl-assisted extraction procedure: The dried biomass of *R. toruloides* Y27012 was soaked into 3 mol/L HCl solution at 28°C, shaking at 100 rpm for 30 min, and then centrifuged at 10,000 rpm for 20 min. The supernatant was cast off, and then acetone was added to the broken cells at 40 mL/g (liquid /solid) ratio. Thereafter, extraction of carotenoids was carried out at 100 rpm for 30 min at 30°C. Then centrifuged at 10,000 rpm for 20min (Gu, 2008; Deming, 2006; Wang, 2008).

(2) Ultrasonic extraction procedure: The dried biomass of *R. toruloides* Y27012 was put into 250 mL flask, and then acetone solvent was added at 40 mL/g (liquid /solid) ratio. After ultrasonic treatment in ultrasonic crusher for 10 min at 0°C, the flask was kept in water bath of 28°C shaking at 100 rpm for 30 min in order to break the cells of yeast. The sample was centrifuged at 10,000 rpm for 20 min to obtain the supernatant containing carotenoids (Gu, 2008).

3.4.1.2 Total Carotenoid Content

The total carotenoid content (measured as β -carotene) was determined by measuring the optical density at 480 nm with the UV–Vis spectrophotometer (UV-1700 SHIMDZU). Following equation was used to determine the carotenoids yield (Gu, 2008).

$$\text{Carotenoids yield } x = \frac{1000ADV}{0.16*W} \text{ (}\mu\text{g/g dry biomass)} \quad (3.2)$$

Whereas; A is the absorption at 480 nm, D is the dilution ratio, V is the volume of acetone, 0.16 is the extinction coefficient of carotenoids, W is the weight of dry cell (g)

$$\text{Carotenoids yield } x = \frac{1000ADV_1}{0.16*V_2} \text{ (mg/L)} \quad (3.3)$$

Whereas; A is the absorption at 480 nm, D is the dilution ratio, V_1 is the volume of acetone added, 0.16 is the extinction coefficient of carotenoids, V_2 is the volume of fermented liquid (Deming, 2006).

3.4.2 Lipid Production

3.4.2.1 Lipid extraction

Lipid production was also investigated from *R. toruloides* Y27012 . Lipid content was determined according to (Folch, 1957).

Samples of dry biomass was homogenized with glass beads and extracted with 10 mL of chloroform–methanol (2:1, v/v) for 48 h at room temperature. The resulting homogenate was filtered, washed with 10 mL of 0.9 % NaCl solution.

Then centrifuged at 2000 rpm for 5 minutes, the lower chloroform phase containing oil was obtained. The chloroform phase was evaporated under vacuum rotary evaporator and the lipid content was calculated according to the following equation (Folch, 1957):

$$\text{lipid yield} = \frac{\text{dry weight(g)}}{\text{volum (L)}} \quad (3.4)$$

Fatty acid compositions of the obtained lipids were determined by GC after preparation of methyl esters according to AOAC 966.33.

3.4.2.2 Fatty Acid Methyl Ester (FAME) Preparation

Methanolic NaOH was added to lipid samples and boiled for about 8 min, then 5 mL of BF₃ 14% was added and continued boiling for 2 min. After 5 mL of heptane was added and boiled for 1 min. The heat was removed and 15 mL of saturated NaCl solution was added and shaken for about 15 s. 1 mL of upper heptane solution was transferred into glass tubes and small amount of Na₂SO₄ was added to remove H₂O. FAMES were kept at 4°C until GC analysis.(AOAC, 1969).

3.4.2.3 Fatty Acid Composition Analysis with Gas Chromatography

FAMES were analyzed by capillary GC, thermoquest Tracw GC 2000 (length 30 m), to determine the fatty acid profiles. The injector and detector temperatures were 250 and 260°C, respectively. Oven temperature was held at 150°C for 3 min followed by increase to 215°C with a ramping at 10°C/min and temperature was held isothermally for 40 min. Injection volume was 1 µL whereas the carrier gas was helium at 1.1 mL/min. Average results were calculated as mol%.

3.4.3 Experimental Design

The effect of different nitrogen and carbon source ,different ratio of C:N and various additives on lipid and carotenoids yield from *R. toruloides* Y27012 have been studied.

In the first part of the preliminary experiments, the effect of nitrogenous compounds yeast extract (3.72g/L), peptone (3.38g/L), ammonium sulfate (1.73g/L) were evaluated in presence of glucose (40g/L) at C:N ratio of 40:1.

Then Glucose(36.36% carbon), glycerol (contain 39% carbon), and xylose (40% carbon) were evaluated as carbon source and yeast extract (3.72) as nitrogen source. The growth conditions for *R. toruloides* Y27012 were optimized for lipids and carotenoids yields with different C:N ratio 60:1, 40:1, and 20:1 by having different glucose concentration as carbon source and a single concentration of yeast extract. For a part of the study, Cotton seed oil, linseed oil, Tween 80, and Tween 20, ethanol, and acetic acid were added at different concentrations to glucose and yeast extract containing growth medium at C/N=20 to examine the effect of activator on the growth, lipid, and carotenoids production (Aksu, 2007; Taoka, 2010).

3.4.4 Statistical Analysis

Regression analysis and statistical significance and response surface applications were performed by using Modde 10.1 (Umetrics, Sweden) program. Central composite design (CCD) with glucose concentration g/L (x_1), yeast extract concentration g/L (x_2), and ethanol g/L (x_3), at three levels was followed to determine the response pattern and synergy of the variable.

Compliance of the model was evaluated by results of variance analysis (ANOVA).

The quadratic response surface model was fitted to the following equation:

$$Y = \beta_0 + \sum_{i=1}^3 \beta_i X_i + \sum_{i=1}^3 \beta_{ii} X_i^2 + \sum_{i=1}^2 \sum_{j=i+1}^3 \beta_{ij} X_i X_j \quad (3.5)$$

where Y is the response, β_0 is the intercept, β_i linear (first order model), β_{ii} quadratic, β_{ij} interaction regression coefficients and X_i and X_j are the independent variables. (Saenge, 2011).

4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Screening for The Method of Carotenoid Extraction

Studies have been reported on extraction of carotenoids from various materials (Francisco& Octavia, 1997). But there are no reports on extraction of carotenoids from *R.toruloides* Y27012 which contains abundant carotenoids. In this work two different extraction method including ultrasonic (US) assisted and HCl assisted methods were employed and compared with control method. Effect of extraction method on the maximum dried cell, total carotenoids concentration and product yield is given in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1 : Effect of extraction method on the maximum dried cell and total carotenoids concentration (X_m , P_m) and product yield $Y_{p/x}$

Extraction methods	X_m g/L	P_m mg/L	$Y_{p/x}$ µg/g
HCL- assisted	35.41±1.28	31.24±0.78	977±43.25
US-assisted	38.28±0.72	15.23±2.72	394.71±73.95
Control	43.69±2.87	23.05±0.39	544.98 ±32.10

The results were expressed as mean ± SD deviations of triplicate measurements

It can be seen from Table 4.1 that, HCl-assisted extraction of carotenoids is the most effective methods with yield of 977±43.25 µg/g, whereas the lower yield of carotenoids was observed by ultrasonic treatment and control samples such as 394.71±73.95µg/g and 544.98 ±32.10 µg/g, respectively.

This might be due to to the in effective disruption of cell walls which prevented more carotenoids dissolved from the *R. toruloides* cells getting into the acetone solution, than in HCl-assisted extraction. Gu (2008) compared three methods such as grinding, US and HCl assisted extraction on carotenoids extraction yield from *Rhodobacter sphaeroides* and as a result HCl-assisted method gave the highest yield of carotenoids such as 4650 µg/g, whereas US assisted extraction gave 664 µg/g carotenoids yield.

4.2 Effect of Nitrogen Source on Carotenoids and Lipid Production

After the most effective method of extraction was chosen, the effects of different nitrogen sources such as yeast extract (3.72 g/L), peptone (3.38 g/L), and ammonium sulfate (1.73g/L) were examined on the growth, lipid, and carotenoids production. For these experiments, glucose was used as the carbon source and the C:N ratio was fixed to 40:1. Effect of nitrogen sources on the maximum dried cell, total carotenoids concentration and product yield is given in Table 4.2. As can also be seen from Table 4.2, the three investigated nitrogen sources had given almost the same amount of biomass. But maximum dry biomass was obtained in medium containing yeast extract.

Table 4.2 : Effect of nitrogen sources on the maximum dried cell and total carotenoids concentration (X_m , P_m) and product yield $Y_{p/x}$

Index	X_m (g/L)	P_m (mg/L)	$Y_{p/x}$ (µg/g)
Yeast extract	35.41±1.28	31.24±0.78	977.12±43.25
Peptone	34.39±0.61	24.48±2.39	626.08±63.21
Ammonium sulfate	34.29±1.94	11.72±2.07	334.22±57.76

The results were expressed as mean ± SD deviations of triplicate measurements

The effects and interactions of media components on the production of β -carotene by *Rhodotorula graminis* was investigated by Ferrao and Garg (2012). Medium components such as mannitol, potassium nitrate, yeast extract, monopotassium hydrogen phosphate and magnesium sulfate were screened and results suggested that higher amounts of mannitol, yeast extract, potassium nitrate and magnesium sulfate would positively affect both biomass and β -carotene accumulation. Yeast extract was critical for both β -carotene and biomass accumulation, and as a result yeast extract gave the highest carotenoids productivity with 220 µg/L at concentration between 9.5-10 g/L according to central composite design.

It was indicated that, complex organic nitrogen sources resulted in higher growth and carotenoids accumulation as compared to inorganic sources, and yeast extract gave 13.1g/L biomass and 33.0 mg/L carotenoids production (Bhosale, 2001). Aksu (2005) used ammonium sulfate as the single nitrogen source for *Rhodotorula mucilaginosa* growth, and it had been noticed that total carotenoids production and organism growth rates increased with increasing initial ammonium sulfate concentration up to 2 g/L carotenoids concentration and yields were 63.0 mg/L, 4.2 mg/g, whereas biomass was 4.9g/L. In another research conducted by Wang and other β -carotene content was found to be 13.43 mg/L when yeast extract at 4.23g/L, glucose at 12.11g/L were used as nitrogen and carbon source for *Rhodotorula glutinis* RG6, respectively (Wang, 2007). When the effect of yeast extract, ammonium sulfate and peptone and other nitrogen were invested on the carotenoids and lipid production by *Rhodotorula glutinis*, yeast extract gave the highest biomass, lipid content and carotenoids concentrations were 6.33 g/L, 32.63%, and 129.94 mg/L, respectively (Saenge, 2011).

Yeast extract also gave the highest lipid content ($44.78 \pm 5.42\%$) and lipid yield (15.23 ± 2.06 g/L) when glucose was used as carbon source. Lipid yields and contents of this study is given in Table 4.3.

Table 4.3: Lipid yields and lipid contents with different nitrogen sources

Index	Lipid, g/L	Lipid content, %
Yeast extract	15.23 ± 2.06	44.78 ± 5.42
Peptone	9.50 ± 0.13	27.46 ± 0.59
Ammonium sulfate	8.16 ± 0.91	22.30 ± 1.28

The results were expressed as mean \pm SD deviations of triplicate measurements

Among the various nitrogen sources as can be seen from Tables 4.2 and 4.3 together, yeast extract was the best nitrogen source for lipid and carotenoids yields as 44.78% and 977.12 ± 43.25 $\mu\text{g/g}$, respectively followed by peptone and ammonium sulfate. In this research the highest biomass and lipid accumulation occurs under certain conditions, which can be considered as critical, and these conditions include nitrogen source.

In another research, cell mass, lipid content in the culture of *Rhodospiridium toruloides* 21167 reached 18.5 g/L, 63.2% (w/w), respectively, after it was grown for 144 h in the medium which contained cassava starch as carbon source, and yeast extract as nitrogen source (Wang, 2012).

It was found that the neutral lipids decreased during the carbon-limited stationary phase, and increased during the nitrogen-limited batch growth of *Rhodospiridium toruloides* NCYC 921. The maximum lipid content was obtained with 34 g/L glucose and 0.5 g/L yeast extract at 24% w/w (Andrade, 2012).

4.3 Effect of Carbon Source on Carotenoids and Lipid Production

Carbon source is the most studied parameter to influence carotenogenesis. Metabolism of yeasts acts depending on the kind of carbon source in the medium. Glucose and other fermentable sugars are metabolized by the glycolytic pathway, and then alcoholic fermentation. Yeasts in general are able to utilize several different carbon sources for the production of cell mass, lipids and carotenoids.

In Table 4.4, effect of carbon sources on the maximum dried cell, total carotenoids concentration and product yield is given in Table 4.4. Assimilation of different sugars as carbon source by the red yeast *Rhodospiridium toruloides* Y27012 for its growth and pigmentation shows that highest carotenoids yield was 977.12 ± 43.28 $\mu\text{g/g}$ when glucose was used as carbon source at C:N of 40:1

Table 4.4: Effect of carbon sources on the maximum dried cell, total carotenoids concentration (X_m , P_m) and product yield $Y_{p/x}$

Index	X_m (g/L)	P_m (mg/L)	$Y_{p/x}$ ($\mu\text{g/g}$)
Glucose	35.41 ± 1.28	31.24 ± 0.78	977.12 ± 43.28
Xylose	34.62 ± 1.23	32.96 ± 0.45	732.89 ± 45.83
Glycerol	34.93 ± 1.39	12.76 ± 0.45	692.73 ± 95.53

The results were expressed as mean \pm SD deviations of triplicate measurements

Until now there is no research about production of carotenoids from *R. toruloides* Y27012, so comparing with another yeasts, carotenoids production by the *R. glutinis* at different glucose concentrations showed that carotenoid formation enhanced with the increasing of glucose concentration. *R. glutinis* gave at 20 g/L of initial glucose, the highest carotenoids production yield of 13.8 mg/g (Aksu, 2005).

Varying the carbon sources in the culture medium affected carotenoids production by *R.glutinis* mutant 32, glucose yielded a proportionately higher production of carotenoids comparing with glycerol (9.8 mg/L, 2.9 mg/g) and xylose (23.9 mg/L, 2.2 mg/g) (Bhosale, 2001).

R.glutinis gave a carotenoids yield of 135.2 mg/L and 60.07% lipid when glycerol was used as carbon source in the study of Saenge (2011). It is considered as high yield comparing with the results which we had in this research when glycerol was used as carbon source for *R.toruloids* Y27012 with yeast extract as nitrogen source, and C/N ratio of 40:1.

In another study, carotenoids yield of red yeast *Sporobolomyces pararoseus* TISTR5213 was 16.55 mg/L after applying RSM when waste glycerol was used as carbon source and after 5 days of fermentation (Manowattana, 2012).

Buzzini (2007) investigated different strains to produce carotenoids in presence of glucose 40g/L and yeast extract 2 g/L.

Carotenoids content varied from 16.4 to 184 µg/g, among the strains investigated, 122.6 µg/g dry cell was obtained from *Rhodospiridium toruloides* DBVPG 6739 and the carotenoids content was 1311 µg/L. Also in other study conducted by Buzzini (2005) the maximum carotenoids production obtained from *Rhodotorula graminis* DBVPG 7021 was 803 µg/g when glucose was used as carbon source after optimization of trace element concentration by RSM.

Lipid yields and content with different carbon sources are given in Table 4.5. *R. toruloides* is known as lipogenic yeast and the results presented here confirm its ability to accumulate over 40% of its biomass as lipid. However, lipid accumulation was strongly affected by the nature of the carbon source provided.

It was noticed from this research that there was no clear difference between lipid content among glucose and glycerol sources.

Lipid content was $44.78 \pm 5.42\%$ and concentration was 15.23 ± 2.06 g/L when glucose was used as carbon source, but considering the concentration, glycerol gave 6.16 ± 0.40 g/L which was lower comparing with glucose and xylose as seen in Table 4.5. This result is almost similar to study by Mereton (1988).

Lipid contents were found to be 42.9% and 42.2% when glucose and xylose were used, but lipid content decreased to 34.4% when pure glycerol was used.

Table 4.5: Lipid yields and contents with different carbon sources

Index	Lipid, g/L	Lipid content, %
Glucose	15.23±2.06	44.78±5.42
Xylose	13.52±2.41	41.77±7.92
Glycerol	6.16±0.40	44.32±4.59

The results were expressed as mean ± SD deviations of triplicate measurements

The stoichiometry of glucose metabolism indicates that about 1.1 moles of acetyl-CoA are generated from 100 g of glucose catabolized. Xylose can be either metabolized through the phosphoketolase reaction, which is the most efficient pathway yielding around 1.2 moles of acetyl-CoA per 100 g of xylose utilized, or the pentose phosphate pathway, where around 1.0 mole of acetyl-CoA is formed per 100 g of xylose utilized. Therefore, if all the acetyl-CoA produced is channeled towards lipid synthesis, the maximum theoretical yield of SCO produced per glucose consumed is around 0.32 g/g. This value is somewhat higher concerning the fermentation of xylose, assuming that oleaginous microorganisms utilize exclusively the phosphoketolase pathway for xylose assimilation. With reference to glycerol, the maximum theoretical yield of SCO is around 0.30 g/g. However, even under ideal conditions for SCO production, lipid yield on glucose consumed can rarely be higher than 0.22 g/g. (Aggellis, 2011).

Höfer (1971) presented circumstantial evidence that *Rhodospiridium toruloides* produced a xylose isomerase in xylose synthesis, but was unable to detect this activity in cell-free extracts of this yeast, however, xylose reductase and xylitol dehydrogenase activities were detected in that research. Wiebe and others (2012) compared the lipid content from *R. toruloides* CBS14 between two carbon source glucose and xylose were used. They have found that glucose gave higher biomass and lipid content (9 g/L, 56%) after 66h, whereas xylose gave (8 g/L, 45%) after 113h. Lipid production by *Rhodospiridium toruloides* Y4 in batch fermentation resulted in accumulating of lipids up to 76% of dry biomass when glucose was used as a substrate (Li, 2006). In fed-batch fermentations containing glucose, peptone and yeast extract, *R. toruloides* was reported to accumulate up to 67.5% of lipids and a biomass of 106 g/L in only 134 h (Li, 2007). The same microorganism produced 79 g/L of lipids, in 140 h, with multiple fed-batch of glucose (Zhao, 2010).

4.4 Effect of C/N Ratio on Carotenoids and Lipid production

Since carotenoids and lipid production share acetyl CoA as common precursor, it can not be excluded that there are certain interactions between both production pathways at certain C/N ratios. Effect of C/N ratio on the maximum dried cell, total carotenoids concentration and product yield is presented in Table 4.6.

As can be seen from Table 4.6, the maximum carotenoids yield was obtained as 1001 ± 17.87 $\mu\text{g/g}$ at C/N ratio of 20 with low biomass (24.76 ± 1.78 mg/L) compared with C/N of 40 and 60.

Table 4.6 : Effect of C/N ratio on the maximum dried cell, total carotenoids concentration (X_m , P_m) and product yield $Y_{p/x}$

Index	X_m (g/L)	P_m (mg/L)	$Y_{p/x}$ ($\mu\text{g/g}$)
C/N=40	35.41 ± 1.28	31.24 ± 0.78	977.12 ± 43.28
C/N=20	24.76 ± 1.78	22.66 ± 0.78	1001 ± 17.87
C/N=60	53.41 ± 0.93	24.74 ± 1.63	445.38 ± 40.88

The results were expressed as mean \pm SD deviations of triplicate measurements

Park (2005) indicated that the best carotenoid production occurred at a C/N ratio of approximately 44.5 by *Rhodotorula glutinis*. Whereas C/N of 31.6 gave the highest biomass. Also, the C/N ratio of 44.5 observed in that study for maximum carotenoids production differed from the results of Somashekar and Joseph (2000), they investigated carotenoids production from semi-defined minimal salts media with three different C/N ratios by the yeast *R. gracilis*, and found that a C/N ratio of 10 favored maximum carotenoids production. This result might be due to the different types of medium and yeast strain used.

In another research conducted by (Libkind, 2004), maximum carotenoids yield (2.32 mg/L) were obtained from *Rhodotorula mucilaginosa* CRUB 0138 at C/N of 5 in culture medium containing 10 and 40 g/L glucose, respectively. Different C/N ratios did not influence carotenoid pigment production but low C/N ratio enhanced biomass yield (Libkind, 2004). The optimized conditions showed that cell growth required low C/N, whereas highest C/N caused increase in lipid content and carotenoids production by *R. glutinis*, at C/N of 170 the lipid content and carotenoids production were (39.74 g/L, 148.77 mg/L, respectively) (Saenge, 2011).

It was observed in the medium at different C/N ratios between 10/1 and 70/1, that C/N ratio had no effect on cellular pigment accumulation by *R.glutinis* mutant 32. However, a low ratio resulted in high volumetric production of carotenoids (33 mg/L, 2.90 mg/g) due to high cell mass yield (Bhosale, 2001).

The results of lipid yield and content at different C/N ratios are given in Table 4.7.

In this study it was noticed that the highest lipid content was given when the C/N ratio was 60 with a yield of 16.98 ± 0.79 g/L and lipid content of 49.83 ± 2.53

Table 4.7 : Lipid yield and lipid content at different C/N ratio

Index	Lipid yield, g/L	Lipid content, %
C/N=40	15.23 ± 2.06	44.78 ± 5.42
C/N=20	12.58 ± 2.93	40.28 ± 2.44
C/N=60	16.98 ± 0.79	49.83 ± 2.53

The results were expressed as mean \pm SD deviations of triplicate measurements

There are many studies that considered this factor in lipid production from yeasts. Nitrogen feeding should be taken into consideration, because the molecular ratio of carbon-to-nitrogen (C/N) was important for lipid accumulation. It has been mentioned that high C/N causes decreasing of AMP (Adenosine monophosphate) produced, thus increasing the level of isocitrate which converts to citrate to Acetyl CO-A (Ratledge, 1982). Usually, a C/N ratio of 70 was sufficient to ensure the lipid production process, and a higher C/N ratio gave higher lipid content. However, lipid productivity could be reduced when nitrogen sources were extremely scarce.

For example, cultivation of *R. toruloides* Y4 on hydrolysis Jerusalem artichoke tuber with a C/N molar ratio of 23 achieved a moderate cellular lipid content of 40% (Hu, 2007). Yeast *Lipomyces starkeyi* produced biomass with a lipid content of 34% when it was cultured on sewage sludge-based medium with a C/N molar ratio of 18 (Angerbauer, 2008). Very recently, lipid accumulation in the presence of relatively high amounts of organic nitrogen in the growth medium has been documented for the yeast *Cunninghamella echinulata* (Fakas, 2008). They have indicated that complex organic nitrogen sources not readily assimilable had limited detrimental effects on lipid production. In this respect, it should be careful to consider media C/N molar ratios based on total nitrogen analysis if raw materials were employed for lipid production.

Cellular lipid contents were over 70% of their dry biomass when *R. toruloides* Y4 cells were cultivated with the initial carbon-to-nitrogen (C/N) molar ratios higher than 570, whereas lipid contents were less than 20% if the initial C/N molar ratios were lower than 100 (Li, 2006). Various $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$ concentrations were added to culture to give C/N ratios of 22.3, 14.3, 9.9, 7.8 and 6.1.

The results are shown that the culture with a C/N molar ratio of 14.3 gave a slightly higher biomass but a lower lipid yield than those with a C/N ratio of 22.3. Both biomass and lipid decreased as culture C/N molar ratios went down. Lipid contents almost held constant at around 60% even the C/N molar ratio reduced to 6.1 (Wu, 2010).

As the cultural C/N molar ratios in the medium of *R. toruloides* Y4 decreased, both biomass and lipid contents decreased concurrently with an increased residual sugar concentration indicating that excess nitrogen source inhibited slightly substrate assimilation and cell growth. Yet, lipid contents almost held constant at near 57% although the C/N molar ratio ranged from 28.3 to 5.7 (Wu, 2011).

4.5 Effect of Activator Addition on Carotenoids and Lipid Production

Some agents, such as detergent additives, oils, surfactants have been suggested as activators for increasing carotenoids and lipid productivity. In order to enhance the carotenoids capability, glucose containing growth medium was supplemented with activators such as Tween 20 and Tween 80 at 0.1 and 1% (v/v). Moreover, 0.1% cotton seed oil, linseed oil, 10 g/L of ethanol and 5 g/L acetic acid were also tested. Effect of additives tested on the maximum dried cell, total carotenoids concentration and product yield is given in Table 4.8.

It had been noticed that when all additives were added at 0.1% there was no increase in carotenoids yield, but decrease in carotenoids at these concentrations.

Carotenoids formation were decreased with Tween 20, Tween 80, cotton seed oil, and linseed oil when they were added at low concentration (0.1%) together with high concentrations of glucose. These results were consistent with the results of Aksu (2005).

They have also found that, the additives did not have any effect on carotenoids production at high glucose concentrations. When Tween 80 and Tween 20 was added at high concentrations such as 1% (v/v) and glucose was adjusted to have C/N ratio of 20, it was noticed that the carotenoids production and carotenoids concentration increased with a decrease in cell biomass.

Effect of Tween 20, Tween 80, ethanol and acetic acid on the maximum dried cell, total carotenoids concentration and product yield is given in Table 4.9.

Table 4.8 : Effect of additives on the maximum dried cell, total carotenoids concentration (X_m , P_m) and product yield ($Y_{p/x}$)

Index	X_m (g/L)	P_m (mg/L)	$Y_{p/x}$ (μ g/g)
Control	24.76 \pm 1.78	22.66 \pm 0.78	1001.51 \pm 17.87
0.1 % Tween 20	35.41 \pm 1.30	22.40 \pm 0.90	606.50 \pm 30.16
0.1% Tween 80	28.60 \pm 2.80	19.27 \pm 0.90	754.68 \pm 33.65
0.1% Cotton seed oil	24.05 \pm 1.27	ND	ND
0.1% Linseed oil	27.05 \pm 0.73	ND	ND
0.1% Tween 80 +0.1% linseed oil	34.72 \pm 1.94	20.83 \pm 1.97	563.69 \pm 29.08
0.1% Tween 80 +0.1% cotton seed oil	41.97 \pm 1.02	23.18 \pm 2.26	682.06 \pm 31.99

The results were expressed as mean \pm SD deviations of triplicate measurements , ND not detected

As can be seen from Table 4.9, it can be concluded that, at lower glucose concentrations Tween 20 and Tween 80 can increase the carotenoids concentration with little increase in carotenoids yield comparing with control sample. Ethanol gave a high carotenoid yield comparing with control sample and other samples (1732.17 \pm 39.45 μ g/g) with decrease in biomass.

Cotton seed oil and linseed oil did not have effect on carotenoid production at low concentrations. These oils were added in the presence of Tween 80 to be sure if the yeast will use these oils. As a result it was found that, the carotenoid yield and carotenoid concentration were the same without cottonseed oil and linseed oil, therefore these oil might have no effect in the activation of the enzymes involved in carotenoids biosynthesis when used at low concentrations with high concentrations of glucose.

Aksu and Eren (2005) reported that the supplementation of cotton seed oil in the culture medium for growth of *R. mucilaginosa* resulted in an increased production of total carotenoids at 5 g/L glucose concentration, the yeast produced 57.6 mg/L carotenoids with cotton seed oil, while 39.5 mg/L carotenoids was produced without the activators.

In the same study in the presence of 15 g/L glucose medium without additives, carotenoids yield was 13.7 mg/g which was more than when cotton oil was added (9.4 mg/g).

Saenge (2011) had investigated number of surfactants including Tween 80, Tween 20 and gum Arabic for enhancement of lipid and carotenoids production by *R. glutinis* TISTR 5159 yeast. It was cultivated with ammonium sulfate as nitrogen source. There was a significant increase in the amounts of biomass and lipid content and carotenoids production which were 7.07 g/L, 38.15g/L, and 125.94 mg/L, respectively when Tween 20 was added.

Although acetic acid gave a good result when it was added at 5 g/L to a fed-batch culture of *P. rhodozyma* causing increase in carotenoid concentration to 43.87 mg/L comparing with control sample (Kim, 2003). In our carotenoids were not detected may be due to the yeast or to the medium conditions (Table 4.9).

In this study, ethanol increased the carotenoid yield with no change in carotenoid concentration comparing with control sample ($1732.17 \pm 39.45 \mu\text{g/g}$, $22.92 \pm 0.95 \text{ mg/L}$). Detailed studies revealed that ethanol activates oxidative metabolism with induction of HMG-CoA reductase, which in turn enhances carotenoids production. Similarly, Gu(1997) reported increased carotenoids production (from 1.65 mg.g^{-1} cells to 2.65 mg.g^{-1} cells) upon addition of 0.2% (v/v) ethanol to cultures of the yeast *X. dendrorhus*. Also Kim(2003) reported that cell mass and astaxanthin production is stimulated by the addition of ethanol (10 g/L) to a fed-batch culture of *P. Rhodozyma* that resulted with 45.62 mg /L carotenoids.

Table 4.9 : Effect of Tween 20, Tween 80 at 1% (v/v), ethanol 10g/L and acetic acid 5g/L on the maximum dried cell, total carotenoids concentration (X_m, P_m) and product yield $Y_{p/x}$

Index	$X_m(\text{g/L})$	$P_m(\text{mg/L})$	$Y_{p/x}(\mu\text{g/g})$
Control	24.76 ± 1.78	22.66 ± 0.78	1001.51 ± 17.87
1 % Tween 20	25 ± 1.13	25.26 ± 1.19	1002.79 ± 46.87
1% Tween 80	24 ± 0.46	25 ± 2.07	1014.46 ± 68.44
10 g/L Ethanol	13.33 ± 0.05	22.92 ± 0.95	1732.17 ± 39.45
5 g/L Acetic acid	41.97 ± 1.02	ND	ND

The results were expressed as mean \pm SD deviations of triplicate measurements, ND not detected

Polyoxyethylene sorbitan monooleate, generally known as Tween 80, is a non-ionic surfactant and contains amono-unsaturated fatty acid. Tween 80 has been extensively employed as a vehicle for the addition of water insoluble compounds. Tween 80 is known to interfere with the permeability of cell membranes and enhances the nutritional input from the surroundings to the cell body. In addition to Tween 80, there are other Tween series, such as Tween 20, Tween 40 and Tween 60 which contain monolaulate, monopalmitate, monostealateand monooleate, respectively, and these Tween series are aqueous (Scardovi, 1981).

It has been noticed that adding Tween 80, Tween 20 at 0.1% and 1% (v/v) causes increasing in lipid content as can be seen in Table 4.10 and 4.11.

Lipid contents reached to $44.92\% \pm 5.438$ and $41.34\% \pm 7.94$, respectively with Tween 80 and 20 at 1% (v/v) compared with the control sample.

The total lipids extracted from *Thraustochytrium* was significantly enhanced by the addition of Tween 80 at (0.1%, 1%) to the culture medium, the total lipids extracted from *T. aureum* ATCC 34304 cells at 96 h were 270 mg/g in the control and 311 mg/g in 1.0% Tween 80, and a significant difference was observed.

Tween 80 and Tween 20 may play a role not only as a carbon source but also acts as an enhancer of nutrient uptake into the cell bodies, meaning that the permeability of the cell membrane increases.

It is known that Tween 80 interferes with the cell membrane permeability in various microorganisms (Scardovi, 1981). Perhaps, the Tween 80 and Tween 20 may enhance to uptake of the essential components including vitamins from surroundings, but there has been no information in *thraustochytrids*.

Furthermore, the relationship between Tween 20, Tween 80 supplementation and the membrane permeability in *thraustochytrids* should be investigated. In this study when cotton seed oil and linseed oils were used at 0.1%, it was noticed that *Rhodospiridium toruloides* Y27012 did not use these oil and oil appeared on the surface of the flask after the fermentation period.

Ethanol has been considered as a potential substrate for the de novo lipid biosynthesis of the oleaginous microorganisms, in this study lipid content was occurred when ethanol at 10 g/L with glucose at 5.21 g/L was used. The results are given in Table 4.11. Compared with the control sample, high amount of lipid content such as $45.21\% \pm 0.87$ was obtained. It can be considered as a very proper additive since no residual carbon arises from its uses in fermentation processes.

Table 4.10: Lipid yield and lipid content with different additives

Index	Lipid (g/L)	Lipid content (%)
Control	12.58±2.93	40.28±2.44
0.1 % Tween 20	13.92±1.00	42.38±1.36
0.1 % Tween 80	12.60±1.05	41.96±3.01
0.1% Cotton seed oil	ND	ND
0.1% Linseed oil	ND	ND
0.1% Tween 80+0.1% linseed oil	15.98±0.77	40.13±3.40
0.1% Tween 80+0.1% cotton seed oil	13.88±0.65	40.99±2.72

The results were expressed as mean ± SD deviations of triplicate measurements, ND not detected

Lipomyces starkeyi was grown on ethanol maintained at its optimal concentration of 2.5 g/L. This technique allowed extremely high cell densities to be attained: 153 g/L over 140 h, with a cellular oil content in excess of 50% (Yamauchi, 1983).

The ability to utilize ethanol suggests the presence of an alcohol dehydrogenase, to convert ethanol to acetaldehyde, and an acetaldehyde dehydrogenase to convert acetaldehyde to acetate.

Taking into consideration that theoretical yield of 0.54 g of lipid per 1 g of ethanol consumed (Ratledge, 1988). Nevertheless such high conversion yields have never been achieved in the literature with the conversion threshold of ethanol into SCO being around 0.31 g/g. (Ratledge, 1988; Fakas, 2009).

Acetic acid also gave a high lipid content and yield of 61.27%±1.77, 13.07±1.71 g/L at 5 g/L of acetic acid. Acetic acid has been equally considered as substrates for SCO production. Roux (1995) had used acetic acid as a carbon source and as a result lipid content was 47% of biomass.

The major reasons for this improved productivity would appear to originate from both acetic acid and ethanol feeding directly into the pool of acetyl-CoA that is needed for lipogenesis.

In glucose-grown cells, the main flux of carbon involves glucose uptake, glycolysis, transport of pyruvate into the mitochondrion, conversion of pyruvate into citrate, transport of citrate into the cytosol, and cleavage of citrate by adenosine triphosphate(ATP):citrate lyase to yield acetyl-CoA. This has been well explored in both yeasts and fungi. (Ratledge, 2002).

From the findings of our research, it can be concluded that, acetic acid was better than ethanol for obtaining higher lipid content and concentration even it was used at low concentrations conceding that toxic effects of both ethanol and acetic acids.

Table 4.11: Lipid yield and lipid content with different additives

Index	Lipid (g/L)	Lipid content (%)
Control	12.58±2.93	40.28±2.44
1 % Tween 20	10.72±2.20	41.34±7.94
1% Tween 80	8.35±1.23	44.92±5.43
10g/L Ethanol	8.59±1.05	45.21±0.87
5g/L Acetic acid	13.07±1.71	61.27±1.771

The results were expressed as mean ± SD deviations of triplicate measurements, ND not detected

4.6 Medium Optimization by Response Surface Methodology

Response surface methodology (RSM) was applied to optimize concentration g/L (x_1), yeast extract concentration g/L (x_2) and ethanol concentration g/L (x_3) for biomass content and production of lipids and carotenoids from *R.toruloids* Y27012. Central composite design (CCD) with 3 center points leading to a total 15 sets of experiments was carried out as shown in Table 4.12.

From Table 4.13 it is observed that the most important effects on biomass incorporation was found as “ethanol”.

“Glucose”, “ethanol*ethanol”, and “glucose* ethanol” do not have any effect on biomass as ($p>0.05$). Whereas “glucose*glucose”, “yeast extract*yeast extract”, “ethanol* ethanol”, and “yeast extract*ethanol” have an effect on lipid content as ($p<0.05$), and glucose*glucose has a negative effect in lipid content.

For carotenoid yield “yeast extract*yeast extract”, “ethanol* ethanol”, and “glucose*yeast extract” have an effect on carotenoid yield and the most important effects was ethanol*ethanol in negative way.

Table 4.12: Experimental design matrix and experimental results for the CCD design

	Factors			Responses		
	Glucose (g/L)	Yeast extract (g/L)	Ethan ol (g/L)	Biomass (g/L)	Lipid content (%)	Carotenoids content (µg/g)
	x_1	x_2	x_3	Y_1	Y_2	Y_3
1	1(9.79)	1(4.72)	0(10)	13.31±2.09	47.16±1.11	1526.69±132.79
2	1(9.79)	-1(2.72)	0(10)	14.87±1.31	47.48±4.46	1314.72±135.72
3	-1(3.38)	1(4.72)	0(10)	13.10±1.45	41.72±1.98	1471.94±51.13
4	-1(3.38)	-1(2.72)	0(10)	10.44±0.92	45.19±2.45	1538.69±108.83
5	1(9.79)	0(3.72)	1(15)	13.59±1.63	46.17±2.07	1238.08±128.28
6	1(9.79)	0(3.72)	-1(5)	12.77±0.98	43.84±2.70	1444.59±28.26
7	-1(3.38)	0(3.72)	1(15)	10.42±1.9	45.95±0.67	1467.21±21.18
8	-1(3.38)	0(3.72)	-1(5)	11.69±3.09	40.22±1.15	1366.69±56.616
9	0(6.58)	1(4.72)	1(15)	13.09±1.50	65.86±0.95	1276..55±100.11
10	0(6.58)	1(4.72)	-1(5)	13.84±0.88	57.38±0.73	1334.76±79.84
11	0(6.58)	-1(2.72)	1(15)	11.97±1.27	57.18±7.00	1198.80±140.3
12	0(6.58)	-1(2.72)	-1(5)	9.74±1.99	67.91±1.49	1485.76±168.44
13	0(6.58)	0(3.72)	0(10)	10.86±2.37	46.7±0.47	1692.03±210.80
14	0(6.58)	0(3.72)	0(10)	10.64±2.95	48.86±0.47	1636.37±130.75
15	0(6.58)	0(3.72)	0(10)	11.06±2.77	46.92±0.47	1789±80.02

The results were expressed as mean ± SDdeviations of triplicate measurements

The regression equations for biomass (Y_1), lipidcontent (Y_2), and carotenoid production (Y_3) as a function of glucose (x_1), yeast extract (x_2), and ethanol (x_3) are given as followed Eqs:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Biomass } (Y_1) = & 10.8533 - 0.061x_1 + 0.076x_2 - 1.18x_3 + 0.58x_1^2 + 1.06x_2^2 \\ & + 0.25x_3^3 - 0.80x_1x_2 + 0.39x_1x_3 - 0.74x_2x_3 \end{aligned} \quad (4.1)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Lipid content}(Y_2) = & 49.4932 - 0.11x_1 - 0.31x_2 - 0.24x_3 - 5.96x_1^2 + \\ & 7.59x_2^2 + 6.99x_3^2 + 0.038x_1x_2 - 0.64x_1x_3 + 4.8x_2x_3 \end{aligned} \quad (4.2)$$

$$\text{Carotenoids yield (Y}_3\text{)} = 1685.21 + 7.64x^1 + 49.41x^2 + 28.04x^3 - 56.25x^{12} - 153.567x^{22} - 207.67x^{32} + 175.148x^1x^2 - 58.05x^1x^3 + 57.196x^2x^3 \quad (4.3)$$

Table 4.13: Regression coefficients (β) and significance values (p -value) of biomass, lipid content, and carotenoid yieldS

Variables	Biomass(g/L)		Lipid content(%)		Carotenoids yield(μ g/g)	
	Coefficient (β)	P-value	Coefficient (β)	P-value	Coefficient (β)	P-value
Intercept	10.85	<0.0001	47.49	<0.0001	1685.28	<0.0001
x₁	-0.061	0.71	-0.11	0.886	7.64	0.727
x₂	0.076	0.015	-0.31	0.764	49.41	0.131
x₃	-1.18	0.0023	-0.24	0.814	28.04	0.353
x₁²	0.58	0.0211	-5.96	0.00008	-56.25	0.058
x₂²	1.06	0.018	7.59	0.0036	-153.567	0.012
x₃²	0.25	0.455	6.99	0.0052	-207.67	0.0036
x₁x₂	-0.80	0.015	0.038	0.972	175.148	0.05
x₁x₃	0.39	0.136	-0.64	0.575	-58.05	0.104
x₂x₃	-0.74	0.052	4.80	0.0196	57.19	0.20

P-value, level of significance

The graphic plot of predicted values by the model vs. observed experimental values showed a linear distribution for biomass, lipid content, and carotenoids yield ($R^2=0.95, 0.96$, and 0.92 , respectively) for the response, This indicated that up to 92 ~ 96 % of the variations in biomass, lipids , and carotenoids can be explained by these equations.

The ANOVA analysis presented in Table 4.14 indicates that the model of biomass was highly appropriate for the prediction since the F_{model} (12.45) value was high compared to the $F_{5,9(\text{table})} = 3.48$ ($\alpha=0.05$). The model showed no lack of fit ($P=0.075>0.05$).

Table 4.14 ANOVA analyses of the response of biomass

Biomass	DF	SS	MS	F ratio	P- value
Total	15	2226.12	148.408		
Constant	1	2193.25	2193.25		
Total corrected	14	32.872	2.348		
Regression	9	31.135	3.459	9.96	0.010
Residual	5	1.736	0.3473		
Lack of fit (model error)	3	1.648	0.549	12.45	0.075
Pure error (replicate error)	2	0.020	0.0441		

DF, Degree of freedom; SS, Sum of squares; MS, Mean square

Also in ANOVA analysis of lipid content and carotenoids yield as in Table (4.2; 4.3) it is noticed that F the model was highly appropriate F_{model} for lipid and carotenoids (13.12, 6.50, respectively) were higher than $F_{5,9(\text{table})}=3.48$. The model of lipid content showed that there is no lack of fit since ($P=0.103>0.05$).

Also carotenoids yield model showed no lack of fit ($P=0.686>0.05$) table 4.16

Table 4.15 ANOVA analyses of the response of lipid content

Lipid content	DF	SS	MS	F ratio	P- value
Total	15	38056.1	2537.07		
Constant	1	3701.3	3706.13		
Total corrected	14	994.829	71.059		
Regression	9	954.425	106.047	13.123	0.006
Residual	5	40.404	8.080		
Lack of fit (model error)	3	37.578	12.526	8.865	0.103
Pure error (replicate error)	2	2.825	1.413		

DF, Degree of freedom; SS, Sum of squares; MS, Mean square.

Table 4.16 ANOVA analyses of the response of Carotenoids yield

Carotenoids yield	DF	SS	MS	F ratio	P- value
Total	15	3.14E007	3.14E006		
Constant	1	3.11E007	3.11E007		
Total corrected	14	382112	27293.7		
Regression	9	352062	39118	6.508	0.026
Residual	5	30050.8	6010.15		
Lack of fit (model error)	3	13872.5	464.15	0.571	0.686
Pure error (replicate error)	2	16178.3	8089.16		

DF, Degree of freedom; SS, Sum of squares; MS, Mean square

Regression models were employed to develop response surface plots as shown in Fig (4.1; 4.2; 4.3).

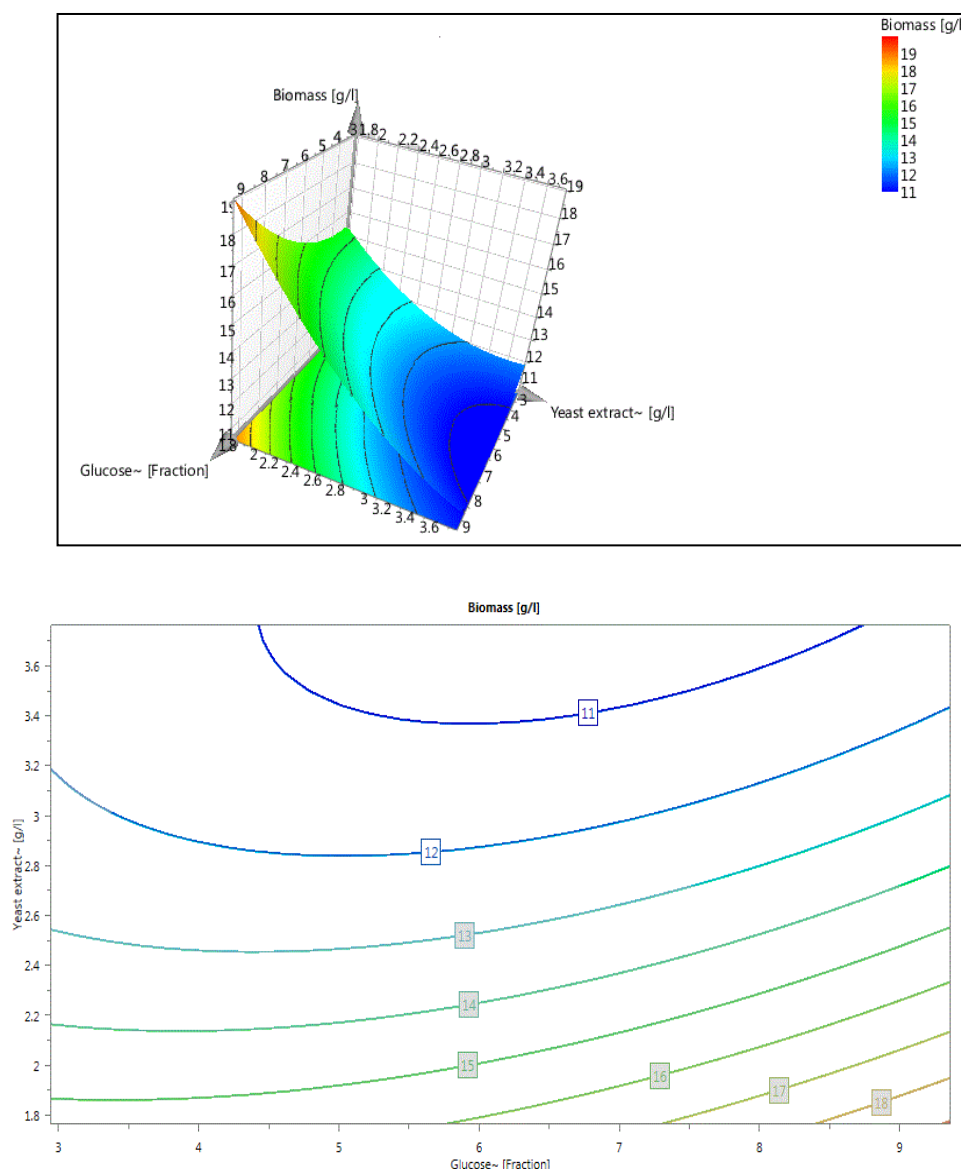


Figure 4.1: Response surface plots and contour plots for the effect of glucose (x_1) and yeast extract (x_2) on biomass

The response surface and contour plots of biomass, lipid content, and carotenoid production illustrated the effects of the Glucose and yeast extract concentrations. Based on response surface plots, the interaction between the two variables and their optimum levels can be easily understood and located.

Fig.(4.1) shows that the biomass increased with increasing glucose concentration and decreasing yeast extract concentraion. Conversely, the maximum biomass (18.78 g/L) was obtained at glucose of 9.28 g/L and decreased yeast extract at 1.78 g/L .

Also from Fig (4.2) it was noticed that maximum lipid content (75.14%) was obtained at a moderate glucose concentration of (6 g/L) and decreased yeast extract cocentration (1.77g/L). It can be noticed that yeast extract at (1.77g/L) concentration gave the maximum biomass and lipid content.

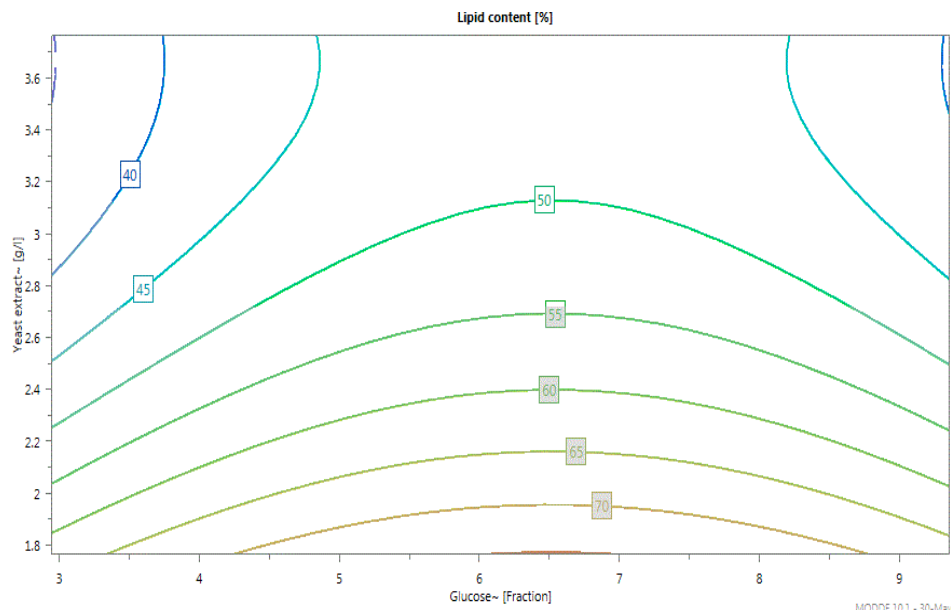
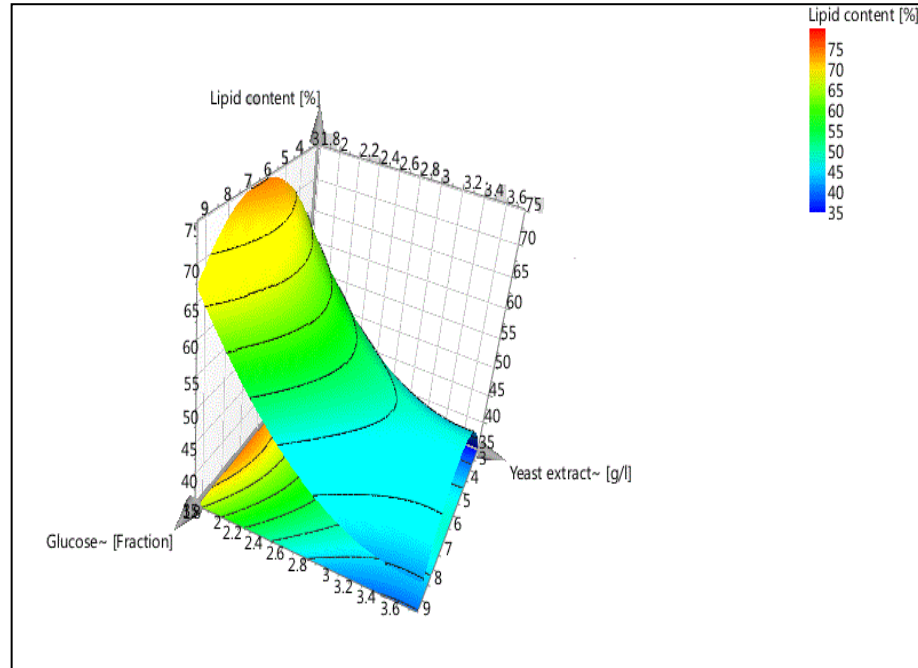


Figure 4.2: Response surface plots and contour plots for the effect of glucose (x_1) and yeast extract (x_2) on lipids content

The maximum carotenoids yield (1680.25 $\mu\text{g/g}$) was obtained at glucose concentration of 6.43 g/L and relatively high yeast extract concentration of (3.77 g/L) (Fig 4.3).

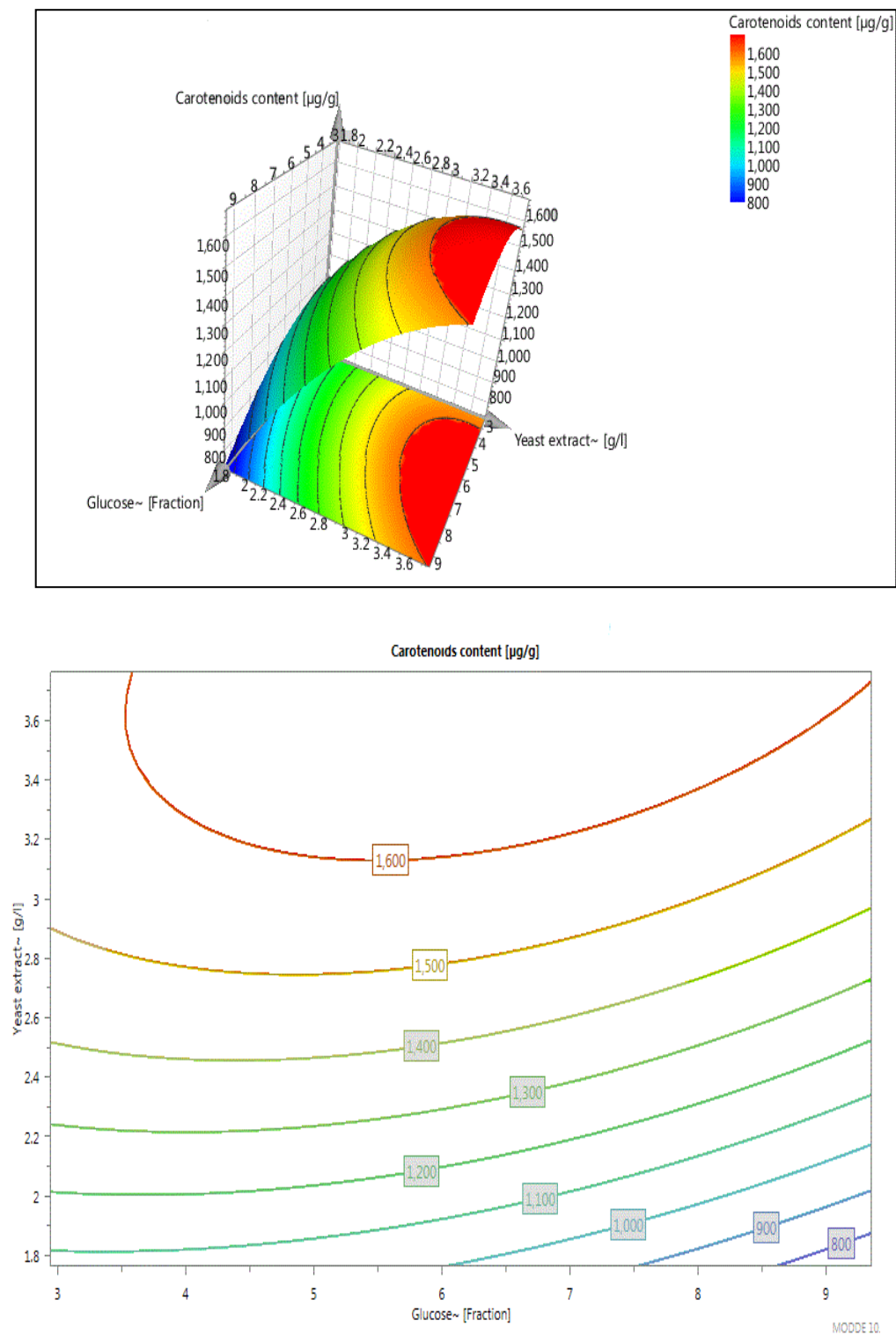


Figure 4.3 : Response surface plots and contour plots for the effect of glucose (x_1) and yeast extract (x_2) on carotenoid yield

4.7 Fatty Acids Analysis

Lipid sample were transmethylated and analyzed by gas chromatography.

The fattyacid composition showed that four major constituent fattyacids were noticed oleic acid (18:1), palmitic acid (16:0), stearicacid (18:1) and linoleic acid (18:2).

Oliec acid was noticed at 38.54% followed by palmitic acid (20.82%) then palmitoleic acid (12.71%), linoleic acid (12.01%), steatric acid(4.4%) palmitoleic acid. The rest fatty acid were at low ratios.

The major fatty acid compositional profile from *Rhodosporidium toruloides*Y27012 was quite similar to that of vegetable oil such as soybean oil,indicating that microbial lipid is of great potential as an alternativefeedstock for the biodieselindustry.

The fattyacid composition of *Rhodosporidium toruloides* in Zhao (2011) study showed that four major constituent fatty acids were oleic acid (18:1), palmitic acid (16:0), stearicacid (18:0) and linoleic acid (18:2). The sum of palmiticacid and oleic acid contents was over 80%. Also Wu (2011) noticed when *Rhodosporidium toruloides*Y4 cultivated using amedium with an initial carbon-to-sulfur (C/S) molar ratio of 46,750, that 90% of the fatty acid composed of oleic acid (18:1) followed by palmitic acid (16:0) and stearic acid (18:0). In other research to Wu, It was noticed that Oleic acid (18:1) was the most abundant one(60%), followed by palmitic acid (16:0) and stearicacid (18:0), and these three fatty acids accounted for over 90% ofthe total fatty acids when *Rhodosporidium toruloides* Y4 was cultivated at C/P ration of 9552.(Wu, 2010)

After the fatty acids in the extracted lipids from*R. Toruloides* 21167 grown in the hydrolysate of cassava starch in the 2-l fermentor were transmethylated and analysed by gas chromatography, the results indicated that over 96.8% of the fatty acids from the yeast strain 21167 was C16:0,C18:0,C18:1and C18:2, especially C18:1(53.34%) while C14:1and C16:1 fatty acids were only 1.7% and 1.5%.(Wang, 2012).

5 CONCLUSIONS

Carotenoids are important molecules that improve food quality due to their high nutritional value. For these reasons, carotenoid application as colorants has increased the interest of industries and scientists to develop low cost process for carotenoid production. Biotechnological production mainly provides economic advantages over synthetic or extracted plant carotenoids.

In this study, carotenoids extraction was done by two methods ultrasonic (US) assisted and HCl assisted extraction techniques comparing with control technique (grinding) from *Rhodospiridium toruloides* Y27012. HCl-assisted extraction of carotenoids was found to be the most effective method with a carotenoid yield of 977 ± 43.25 $\mu\text{g/g}$ and concentration of 31.24 ± 0.78 mg/L, compared with US method and control.

Among the nitrogen sources that were examined, yeast extract was found to be the best nitrogen source for carotenoids yield and lipid content (977.12 ± 43.25 $\mu\text{g/g}$ and 41.71 ± 1.02 %,) followed by peptone and ammonium sulfate.

Assimilation of different sugars as carbon source by the red yeast *Rhodospiridium toruloides* Y27012 for its growth and pigmentation showed that highest carotenoids yield was 977.12 ± 43.28 $\mu\text{g/g}$ when glucose was used as carbon source at C/N ratio of 40, whereas It was noticed from this research that no clear difference between lipid content was found when glucose and glycerol sources were used.

The effect of C/N ratio was examined to study its effect on lipid and carotenoids production. The maximum carotenoids yield was obtained at C/N ratio of 20 (1001 ± 17.87 $\mu\text{g/g}$) compared with low medium nitrogen contents at C/N ratio of 40 and 60. But lipid content increased with the increase in C/N (low nitrogen), and the highest lipid content was noticed at high C/N ratio 60 (49.83 ± 2.53 %, 16.98 ± 0.79 g/L).

When some additives were added at low concentration such as 0.1% (v/v), they did not have any effect on carotenoid yield, but carotenoid concentration was still almost the same around 20 mg/L.

But when Tween 80 and Tween 20 were added at high concentration such as 1% (v/v) and glucose was adjusted to have C/N ratio of 20, an increase in Lipids content, carotenoid yield and carotenoid concentration were

noticed. Ethanol addition (10 g/L) increased the carotenoid yield with no change in carotenoid concentration compared with control sample ($1732.17 \pm 39.45 \mu\text{g/g}$, $22.92 \pm 0.95 \text{ mg/L}$), lipid content increased until $44.92 \pm 5.43\%$ from $40.28 \pm 2.44\%$ in control sample

Because of the importance of RSM in reducing process variability, development time, and overall costs, Response surface methodology (RSM) was applied for optimizing the medium additives for the production of biomass, carotenoids and lipids. The graphic plot of predicted values by the model vs. observed experimental values showed a linear distribution for biomass, lipid content, and carotenoid yield ($R^2 = 0.947, 0.959, \text{ and } 0.921$, respectively) for the response. This indicated that up to 92 ~ 96 % of the variations in biomass, lipids, and carotenoids can be explained by these equations.

ANOVA analysis indicates that the model of biomass, lipids content, carotenoids yield were highly appropriate for the prediction since the F_{model} values were high compared to the F_{table} . It is observed that the most important effects on biomass incorporation were found as ethanol. "Glucose", "ethanol*ethanol", and "glucose* ethanol" do not have any effect on biomass as ($p > 0.05$). Whereas "glucose*glucose", "yeast extract*yeast extract", "ethanol* ethanol", and "yeast extract*ethanol" have an effect on lipid content as ($p < 0.05$).

While "yeast extract*yeast extract", "ethanol* ethanol", and "glucose*yeast extract" have effects on carotenoid yield. It was noticed after optimization by RSM that the maximum biomass (18.78 g/L) was obtained at glucose of 9.2819 g/L and decreased yeast extract at 1.78 g/L, also maximum lipid content (75.1405%) at decreased yeast extract ratio (1.77g/L). The maximum carotenoids yield ($1680.25 \mu\text{g/g}$) was obtained at glucose concentration of 6.43 g/L and relatively high yeast extract concentration of (3.77 g/L)

The fatty acid composition showed that four major constituent fatty acids were noticed oleic acid (18:1), palmitic acid (16:0), stearic acid (18:1) and linoleic acid (18:2). Oleic acid was noticed at 38.54% followed by palmitic acid (20.82%) then palmitoleic acid (12.71%), linoleic acid (12.01%), stearic acid (4.4%) palmitoleic acid. The rest fatty acids were at low ratios. Until now there is no research for optimization of carotenoid production from *Rhodospiridium toruloides* Y27012, so further studies are needed to explain the effect of the growth conditions like temperature, light, pH, and aeration for carotenoid production from this microorganism. On the other hand, low-cost substrates as agro-industrial wastes should be tried in the medium growth as an alternative of carbon and nitrogen sources.

Also in further study, metabolic engineering strategies may be done between *Rhodospiridium toruloides* Y27012 and noncarotenogenic microorganisms

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